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Monday March 25 1996

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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46 509

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The great gallery trek

G2 with European weather



Matthew Engel sees the Left left behind

Decline of a protest symbol

Sketch, this section page 2



Media

Working in a war zone

G2 pages 8/9

NHS to sell private care plans

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

SOME National Health Service trust hospitals are drawing up plans to market their own brands of private health insurance in a move that is certain to cause an outcry.

The trusts are discussing ideas ranging from "health care clubs", which would offer members fast-track treatment on public wards, to full-blown health insurance through private patient units, it is disclosed today.

Private health insurance marketed under the name of an individual NHS hospital would represent an enormous symbolic change.

Critics of the Government's health market system, which next week celebrates its fifth anniversary, will say it proves that trusts are a stepping stone to privatisation.

Alan Milburn, a Labour shadow health minister, said: "The core NHS principle of treatment being dictated by clinical need will be a thing of the past."

Ministers must reject this privatisation plan if the NHS is to survive as a genuine public service."

The proposals for trust-branded health insurance are outlined by George Orros, chief executive of Universal Health Consultants, in an article in the 1996 edition of the authoritative Fitzhugh Directory of NHS Trusts.

The directory shows that the 498 NHS trusts operating in Britain and Northern Ireland in 1994/95 together made £188.2 million by treating



private patients. Although this was only 0.9 per cent of total core income, it was a highly significant factor for some hospitals.

The Guy's and St Thomas's trust, south London, made almost £10 million from private patients, while the Royal Marsden in west London made 17 per cent of its core income in this way and the Wrightington hospital, Lancashire, almost 11 per cent.

Mr Orros says he expects trusts, in partnership with insurance companies, to start within two years to market innovative insurance schemes.

He outlines four types of cover:

□ Health care clubs, giving members privileges such as additional, non-NHS clinics and shorter waiting times.

□ Health and care cash clubs, paying "relatively small" cash sums to members in the event of them needing treatment requiring time off work or family care responsibilities.

□ Complementary plans, offering private treatment of conditions no longer treated on the NHS because of rationing by the local health authority.

□ "Gold plans", offering comprehensive care at the trust's private patient unit or should it be needed, another private facility.

Such schemes will be marketed by individual trusts in the first instance, the article says.

Eventually, however, there may be potential to offer an "NHS trust branded product with national coverage" by linking a network of schemes.

"The development of this market has the potential to lead to the generation of long-term, sustainable income streams for NHS trusts," the article says.

Mr Orros told the Guardian his company had for some time been in discussion with a number of trusts, mostly in England and typically those with an actual or potential shortage of funds.

Several insurers had been involved in talks but larger companies had proved hesitant, fearing trust-branded schemes would undermine their own products.

"One or two of the ideas would require approval from the NHS executive, particularly on fast-tracking," Mr Orros said. "That one was actually put to the executive."

The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, said the 13-strong committee whose advice last week led to the Government's admission of a possible link between mad cow disease and its human equivalent, spent the weekend at the Civil Service College in Sunningdale, Berkshire, deliberating over its advice.

The issue most worrying ministers is whether children are more prone to Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, the human



An Aston Villa fan celebrates his team's crushing 3-0 victory over Leeds United in yesterday's Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley, guaranteeing them a place in next season's UEFA Cup. Report, page 16

Test for baby's 'right to die'

Clare Dyer, Legal Correspondent

DOCTORS caring for a severely brain-damaged three-month-old girl are to ask the High Court to let them switch off the ventilator keeping her alive, in a case which could lay down guidelines for up to 1,000 cases a year.

England's senior family judge, who will hear the case within the next few weeks, has decided it should be heard in open court, unlike most cases in which children, because of its public interest. Doctors hope it will give guidance for paediatricians faced with life-or-death decisions on whether to treat brain-damaged newborns.

These could distinguish between cases in which doctors can decide themselves in consultation with parents, and those where the issues are less clear cut, where a court application may be needed.

The baby girl, from the north of England, is a ward of court and cannot be identified. Born nine weeks prematurely, she is prone to fits and thought to be blind and deaf. Doctors believe she suffers pain and distress when the tube connecting her to the ventilator has to be unblocked.

The case, to be heard within weeks by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's family division, follows the death from natural causes of Thomas Creighton, the brain-damaged two-year-old whose parents were planning to ask the court to allow him to die.

Where the outlook for a newborn baby seems hopeless, doctors are often uncertain whether to withhold treatment after discussions with the parents, or seek permission from a court to do so.

The issue has come to a head because more very premature babies are surviving, and because of the House of Lords ruling over the Hills-turn to page 2, column 3



Whoopi Goldberg

Rage of black showbiz stars causes Jackson to think again over plan for Oscars demo

Christopher Reed on offstage drama

THE REV Jesse Jackson has called off his plans for a demonstration at tonight's Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles over the lack of black nominees for the awards.

This follows angry reaction to his proposal by the prominent black entertainers, Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey, both of whom are involved in this year's Oscars show.

Ms Goldberg herself a target of black criticism in the past for her allegedly stereotypical screen roles — said that the protest was inappropriate and Mr Jackson should have been celebrating black achievements. It is Ms Goldberg's second stint as Oscar night host, and this year's show is produced by the black

composer Quincy Jones. Talk show hostess Ms Winfrey, who will interview celebrities during the ceremony, said yesterday: "I got on the phone to Quincy [about the Jackson protest] and believe me, he was furious. With lots of black and ethnic performers in this year's show, this just isn't the time if ever you were going to do it."

Mr Jackson has called off the demonstration outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in central Los Angeles, but he will instead direct "busloads" of intending protesters to the premises in Los Angeles and other US cities of affiliates of ABC, the TV network screening the Oscar gala.

Mr Jackson's anger was sparked by the fact that



Oprah Winfrey

only one black person has been nominated among the 186 contenders for awards, the short film writer-director Dianne Houston.

His supporters have been distributing multi-coloured ribbons, meant to express sympathy for his multi-racial Rainbow Coalition organisation, in the hope that they will be worn by those at the Oscars show.

As for the awards themselves, Hollywood observers agree there is no obvious winner like last year's Forrest Gump, Braveheart and Apollo 13 are considered favourites for best picture.

The only real certainty for an Oscar is considered to be Nicolas Cage as best actor for Leaving Las Vegas.

Cabinet anguishes over scientists' beef plans

John Mullin, Rebecca Smithers and Paul Brown

CABINET ministers are to hold an emergency meeting this morning to discuss scientists' critical recommendations on the risk to children of eating British beef, in a bid to prevent a further loss of public confidence in the meat industry.

The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, was told last night of the findings of the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and will brief colleagues before making a Commons statement this afternoon.

With the beef industry reeling from the decision by the McDonald's fast food chain not to use British beef, the 13-strong committee whose advice last week led to the Government's admission of a possible link between mad cow disease and its human equivalent, spent the weekend at the Civil Service College in Sunningdale, Berkshire, deliberating over its advice.

The issue most worrying ministers is whether children are more prone to Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, the human

equivalent of BSE, more than are adults.

Mr Dorrell told the Commons last week that 10 people under the age of 42 who had contracted the new strain of CJD had probably done so from infected beef. Most of the victims so far have all been much younger than typical, which means they contracted the disease as children or teenagers.

McDonald's said it had decided to stop serving beef burgers until Thursday, after which meat will be supplied from the Netherlands, because customers were "bewildered and confused".

Burger King and other chains are awaiting developments. "We remain confident in the quality and high standards of our products," said a spokesman for Burger King.

"However, the apparent lack of consumer confidence in British beef is obviously of great concern to us."

The European Commission's scientific and veterinary committee will meet in Brussels today to discuss the boycott of British beef by all EU countries except Ireland and Denmark.

At the same time, the first programme of mass slaughtering of cattle in Britain in

30 years appeared to move closer last night as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, indicated that the Government was considering a plan to kill cows over 30 months old.

Mr Hogg is looking at the proposal unveiled by Labour to slaughter those herds with the highest percentages of BSE-infected cattle.

The last mass slaughter of cattle was almost 30 years ago, when 42,000 cattle were killed after an outbreak of food and mouth disease.

Compensation to farmers then came to £27 million, but any package now might cost the Treasury at least £1 billion.

That would have serious knock-on effects for the Government in terms of the scope for tax cuts and the balance of trade.

Demand for beef has crashed since last Wednesday when Mr Dorrell announced the reversal of the Government's line and conceded there might be a link between eating infected beef and contracting CJD. Estimates suggest purchases are down by a third.

Beef crisis, page 5; Leader comment and letters, page 8

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Inside

The Government has drawn up proposals to encourage single mothers-to-be to consider handing over their babies for adoption

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Protest locale that can't square the circle

Turn-out for anti-racist demo is meagre, but maybe Nelson's Column is no longer a fitting backdrop for radical causes

Monday sketch

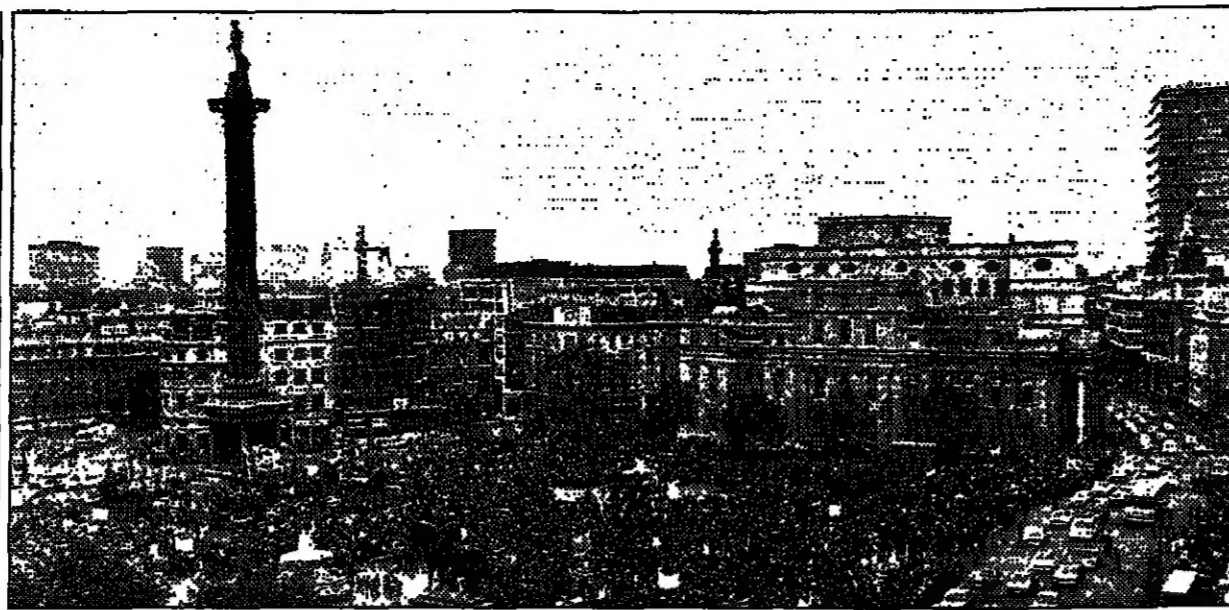


Matthew Engel

THE instruction was to meet by Temple Tube station at 12.30pm on Saturday. It was now 12.30. A few people began wondering if they might have made a mistake. But in that case the police had made a mistake, too. Dozens of them waited on horseback, strolled up and down the street, or sat, lounging and yawning, on the couch parked up the road. And there was the clinching evidence. Propped against the railings in front of Smith & Nephew PLC's corporate headquarters were dozens of placards announcing the theme of today's demonstration. Nearby was Marc Wadsworth, the organiser, looking harassed. "I hope you'll report that the sabotage worked," he said. This was the Trump the Race Card demonstration, from

Temple to Trafalgar Square, organised by the Anti-Racist Alliance (ARA). It was designed largely to show solidarity between the Alliance and the Muslim community, some of whose leaders claim to have been neglected and marginalised by other anti-racist groups. Whatever the rights and wrongs of this dispute, it was impossible not to feel sorry for everyone involved.

Eventually, Mr Wadsworth was obliged to speak to the superintendent on duty. He was told the protest could proceed — on the pavement. It was a humiliating moment. "There are still people arriving," he said. This was true, but an equal number were probably drifting away. "It's got to get a lot bigger than this to warrant putting into place the traffic plan," replied the superintendent. Advance publicity had suggested 5,000 might turn up; the police were told to expect 1,000. Afterwards the organisers claimed 500 and the police said 100. As the march passed under Hungerford Bridges — on the pavement, as instructed — I counted 250, precisely the same as the number of police originally on hand. It was a pleasant springtime stroll and an entirely peaceful protest. The major problem



The way it was... A 1980 CND rally brought the crowds to Trafalgar Square

came when the gold-tasseled banner of the T&C's Ford, Dagenham, branch got tangled up with the overhanging branches of the plane trees. So it was not news. But maybe a fiasco like this says more about the nature of protest in Britain than many more successful demos. It certainly says something about the British Left, in

whose hands the most unanswerable cause can turn into a mish-mash of vituperative claim and counter-claim. The sabotage alleged by Mr Wadsworth was supposed to have come from the TUC, which withdrew its support because it did not get an assurance that there would be no speaker who supported

Hamas. The ARA said there was never going to be a speaker supporting Hamas, and it was a set-up. But most of the people I met seemed unaware of this dispute, never mind its nuances. One elderly gentleman told me he marched for anything. "Anything?" "Anything working-class," he said. There

may have been another factor: that Trafalgar Square itself, after a century and a half as the focal point for British left-wing protest, is losing its allure. The sight of marchers and banners no longer stirs the blood. There was always a paradox here. This is the historic rallying point for the great socialist and anti-imperialist

causes: Chartism, the late-Victorian unemployment crusades, the hunger marches, CND. "Yet the square," as its historian, Rodney Mace, points out, "is an impenitent and rather vulgar commemorative edifice to both men and events which had, by force of arms, extended the hegemony of British capital over large areas of the globe."

There is, of course, no right to demonstrate in the British constitution because the British constitution, such as it is, confers no rights. There is merely an absence of prohibition.

And in our very British way, what has emerged is a compromise — slightly tilted the Government's way by such laws as the Public Order Act but in essence not disallowing marches that do not frighten the horses. Which usually means confining them to the weekend when the politicians are not even around. Curiously, at Horse Guards, the duty page did get a little unnerved by Saturday's small band, the result of everyone being forced on to the pavement while chanting "Michael Howard. He's a coward" and "Britain's police, racist police," which the handful of policemen left on duty accepted phlegmatically.

We had been through the empty ritual of pausing opposite the gates of Downing Street while a deputation handed in a message. Then we were escorted to the foot of Nelson's Column. There were the usual succession of speakers, including controversial figures like the Saudi dissident Professor Al-Mass'ari and the Muslim leader Dr Kalim Siddiqui. But no one sounded inflammatory. They were merely unfocused, flailing at a variety of targets over a wide range of grievances.

By now, the audience had grown, but only because the microphones put the speakers within earshot of thousands of tourists, who seemed aware that they were watching an ancient British ritual but were probably uncertain whether it was Speakers' Corner or dancing round the maypole. Undeniably, this was an object lesson in how not to make an impact. The public, black and white, needs a clear and comprehensible message. That is best reinforced by a powerful, appropriate and unacknowledged television backdrop: the treetops of Newbury, the port of Brightlingsea, even the streets of Brixton. Trafalgar Square's day may be done.

City poll on minimum wage dampens offensive Labour vulnerable in jobs campaign

Rebecca Smithers and Patrick Donovan

LABOUR will today attempt to seize back the political initiative by launching a major campaign to highlight how economic insecurity has grown under the Conservative government despite the publication of MORI poll findings that the Opposition's own policies could lead to heavy job losses. Party leader Tony Blair, shadow chancellor Gordon Brown and shadow trade and industry secretary Margaret Beckett will lead the campaign to highlight how 10.5 million people — one quarter of the working population — have experienced unemployment since the 1982 general election. They will hammer home their point by using detailed analysis of the job market to illustrate how a further 2 million jobs could go before Britain goes to the polls for the next election.

Labour's analysis reinforces earlier employment studies showing an increasing trend away from secure, full-time jobs towards part-time work and temporary contracts. Since 1982, for example, around 300,000 more temporary jobs have been created, and this sector has expanded by nearly 20 per cent in the last year alone. But Labour could be forced on to the defensive by today's publication of an authoritative poll by MORI and the 31 firm of venture capitalists which claims that the Opposition's commitment to a minimum wage could result in more job losses. The poll of more than 1,000 small and medium sized businesses shows that traditionally Tory voting entrepreneurs are now convinced that Labour will win the next election. Its findings are endorsed by the City firm of Flemings, which over the weekend unveiled its own analysis of how a change of government will affect investor confidence. But the MORI survey found

that three in every 10 firms surveyed fears that it could be forced to shed staff if Labour introduced a minimum 64-an-hour wage, the survey said. Worst hit appear to be firms in the North, where 60 per cent of businesses claim that a minimum wage could result in job shedding. Up to 3.5 million employees currently earn less than 24 an hour, according to the Flemings report, which warns that the proposed minimum wage represents a "threat to UK business". It adds: "Labour have used an esoteric academic study to argue that a minimum wage would not result in job losses, but privately concede that some employment loss is inevitable." The report concluded that Labour was likely to win the election but the City "remains much more sceptical" than the electorate in regard to Labour's competence in running the economy. Paul Foot, page 9



Elite police officers guard Taiwan's beaming president, Lee Teng-hui, as he celebrates Saturday's landslide election victory

Stepping out, clogging it and a touch of post-modernism

First night

Judith Mackrell

PERCUSSIVE Feet Festival Cochran Theatre

STEPPING a tune is how American clogger Ira Bernstein defines the magic of percussive dance. And as this week's Percussive Feet festival shows, that magic can occur in dances as varied as tap, Kathak, clogging and stepping. Bernstein himself — a fresh-faced regular guy with extremely tuneful feet — was both MC and opening act for the festival's first show and his set was full of revelations. He told us about a Durham hornpipe that used to be danced on a pedestal to ensure that the dancers stayed on the spot. Then he did it himself, knitting his feet through asound into complex patterns without dropping a stitch. John Kirk played banjo for an Appalachian clog dance, spinning such intense variations from the music it sounded like a sitar, then Coral Fowles played the "Stomach Steinway" for a French-Canadian dance in which Bernstein's clogs clacked so passionately they sounded like a lament. After Bernstein came Sue MacLennan's Off Your Clogs

11, a kind of post-modern clog dance, which started with barefoot dancers doing light and stretchy moves, then grounding themselves, then putting on their clogs. Some passages developed an engaging combative energy as the dancers stamped and swung their legs. But MacLennan's exploration of the language of clogs could only look sketchy after Bernstein's mastery, and even more so compared with the jazz tapper Tobias Tak. Tak sang and danced to the old songs (Fats Waller et al), charmingly clogging up their wit and romance. Like Bernstein, he's a bit of a pedagogue, and during a homage to Bill "Bojangles" Robinson he explained how Robinson turned tap from a flat-footed cousin of clogging to a dance that went up on its toes. As Tak danced the transition, you saw his whole action change from a sturdy springing to the dangling-legged, feet-footed patterning of Fred Astaire. But this was just one moment in a set whose energy was outrageous and whose dancing contagious. Tak made his feet chatter and swoon, he made them sound like tambourines, pistol shots and drums, he made them romantic and witty. He didn't just step a tune, he danced an entire Broadway musical.

Doctors ask court to rule on baby's 'right to die'

Andrew Higgins in Taipei

CHINA has been so unsettled by Taiwan's rapid transition from dictatorship to democracy that it put heavy pressure on observers from Britain to stay away from a presidential poll which has been hailed as the first time a Chinese society has ever elected its leader. "We were told it was not an appropriate time to come to Taiwan," Bill Miller, a member of the European parliament for Glasgow, said. "There were Chinese officials going around parliament telling us to cancel. I can't think of a more appropriate time to be here. This is a historic occasion." Eleven Labour and socialist MEPs ignored the Chinese lobbying, said to involve threats that they would have problems if they ever intend to visit China. The parliament had previously passed two resolutions condemning China's pre-election war games. Chinese dissidents exiled since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre and members of a Hong Kong legislature destined for oblivion after the territory is handed over to China in 1997, celebrated Saturday's four-man race won by a wide margin by President Lee Teng-hui — as proof that the cause of democracy in China is far from doomed. "It is tremendous," said Christine Loh, a Hong Kong legislator in Taipei for the election. "This is part of the making of modern China. How can anyone say democracy is not suitable for Chinese. All the argu-

Nervous China leaned on British poll monitors

Andrew Higgins in Taipei

States and China, which sought to menace voters through missile tests, war games and tough rhetoric. So touchy is Beijing about democracy that in brief reports on Taiwan's vote, state-controlled Chinese media declined even to acknowledge that an election had taken place. The People's Daily, the organ of the Chinese Communist Party, referred to the poll as "the activity by which a change of Taiwan region's leader was engendered". Among exiled dissidents who have converged on Taipei are the 1989 Beijing student leaders Chai Ling and Li Lu. They said the poll vindicated their strategy. Su Shaozhi, the former head of the Marxism-Leninism Institute in Beijing, found encouragement in Taiwan's reforms for his own attempts to reconcile Marxism with direct popular participation in politics. "The Communist Party is most afraid that Mr Democracy may one day come to the

ments about voting not being in our temperament go out the window." Beijing has vowed to dismantle Hong Kong's Legislative Council, now entirely elected, as soon as it regains sovereignty. "You have to fight for democracy," said Ms Loh. "The message for us all is that you have to be prepared to take some risks. No matter how much China does not like what happened, it is the beginning of something new."

President Lee — who celebrated his landslide on Saturday — declared: "This is the most valuable moment in our history." The election propelled Taiwan to the centre of tension between the United

'Chinese officials were going around parliament telling us to cancel. I can't think of a more appropriate time to be here'

'The Communist Party is most afraid that Mr Democracy may one day come to the



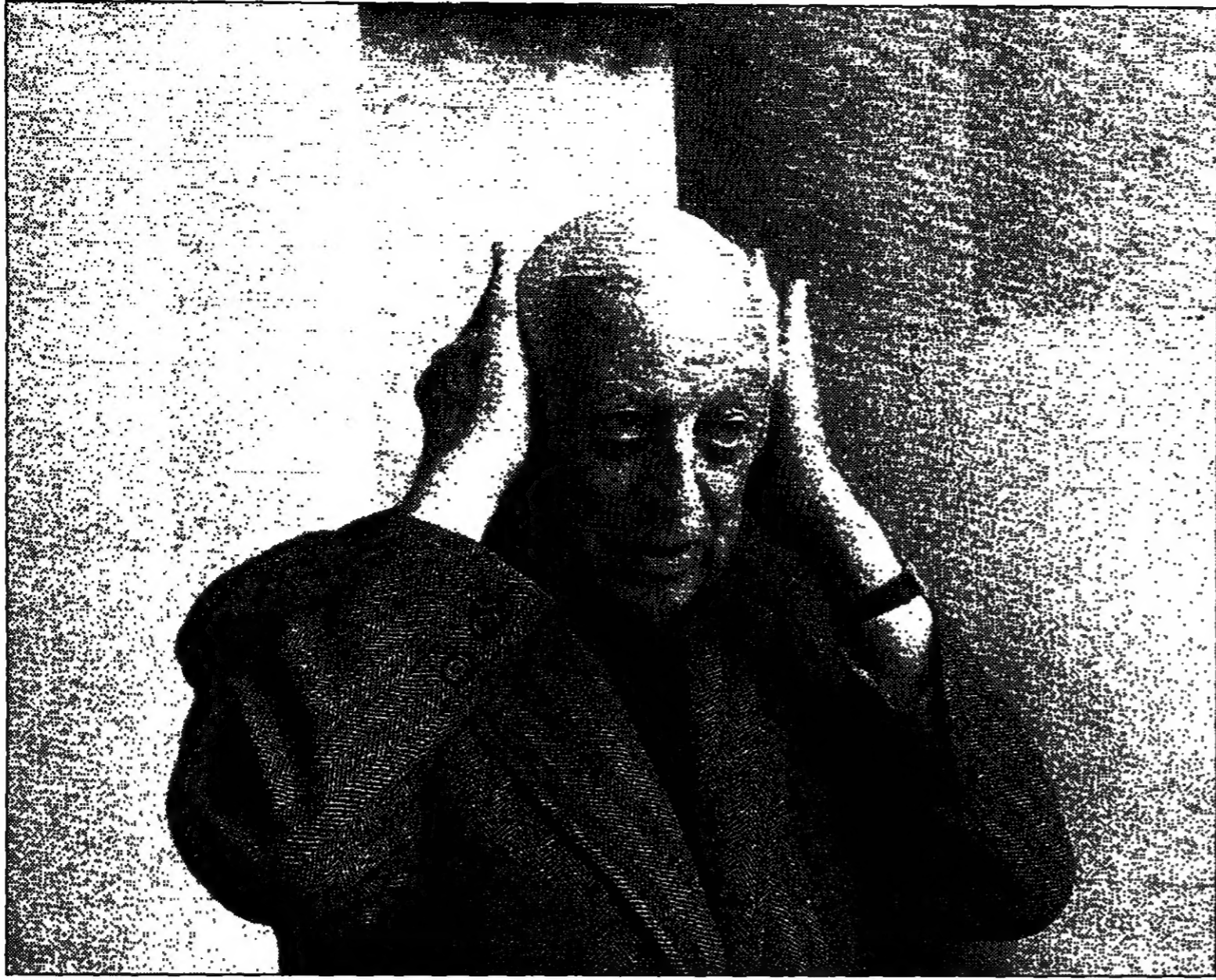
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THE JOYS (AND OTHERWISE) OF WORKING IN A MODERN OFFICE... THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP

ooke's gr... 50th birth... and gets re

Finland's boost

OLIVER & CLAIRE



Veteran broadcaster Alistair Cooke, whose Letter From America this week celebrates its 50th anniversary on the air

PHOTOGRAPH: BILL ROBINSON

Cooke's grand tour takes a 50th birthday flashback and gets ready to move on

Week Commentary

IT WAS originally scheduled for a 13-week run, the brainchild of an aspiring BBC journalist looking to broadcast a series of talks on life in America after the end of the second world war. Yesterday, veteran journalist Alistair Cooke turned the clock back half a century, marking the 50th anniversary of his Letter from America by

re-reading the very first of his legendary 15-minute BBC talks. Mr Cooke, now aged 87, began yesterday's letter by explaining to listeners the context within which his first talk was written in 1946. Mr Cooke had just returned to the US from a sobering month-long visit to London, where he encountered chronic food shortages and long queues. He told listeners yesterday:

"I think I ought to fill in the dark, bleak background of Britain in early 1946, otherwise you will wonder at the obsession in this talk of food and clothing and the desperate ways of procuring them. In Britain, the winter of 1945/46 was the hardest to bear, not only because of ferocious weather but because during the war the American government under President Roosevelt had voted to send to Britain millions of tons of

food and billions of dollars in loans to finance a meeting of all the weapons of war. But the day after the Japanese surrender in August 1945, President Truman suspended all this so-called lend-lease aid. My trip to London was frankly a shocker. There was everywhere a dire shortage of heat and electricity, coal, food. Soap was a luxury. The letter became the first of 2,458 broadcasts by Mr Cooke about his adopted homeland, which is regularly heard by more than a million listeners in Britain alone. In his first letter, Mr Cooke spoke of leaving Britain aboard an ocean liner filled with thousands of war brides "weeping like mad" and waving handkerchiefs "in an unbroken line, like washing day in Manchester or Leeds." He spoke of shortages of nylons,

bread, meat and butter in America, and the long queues for basic items. Born in 1908, Mr Cooke was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge. He joined the BBC in 1934 as a film critic but as the winner of a Commonwealth Fellowship, he had travelled throughout America in the summer of 1933 and fell in love with its landscape and people. In 1941 he became a US citizen. Mr Cooke's soothing, deadpan style and eye for detail have earned him a worldwide audience estimated at 34 million. He still writes his scripts on a manual typewriter in his New York apartment, doing the corrections by hand. At the end of yesterday's broadcast, Mr Cooke vouchsafed that a journalist had recently asked him if the BBC had asked him to retire and whether he planned to. He told listeners: "I said the answer was no. I've noticed if you retire you feel over."

Shortages, rations, queues... oh, what a weary peace

THE nation might have been relieved that the war was over, but 1946 was a crippling year for most Britons, writes Vipek Chaudhary. By March of that year, Clement Attlee's Labour government had reintroduced rationing on basic food such as bread, rice and butter, after American loans ended. Meat rations were cut. Clothes could only be purchased with coupons and nylon stockings became a valuable commodity. A shortage of



An ex-soldier gets his 'demob suit' in 1946

grain meant that beer production was cut by 50 per cent and the only concession granted to a population facing long queues and shortages was a slight increase in corn beef rations. Police and Ministry of

Food mounted a campaign to arrest black-market dealers. The health minister, Aneurin Bevan, told the country that tuberculosis and venereal disease remained a major problem but promised a national health service would be set up, providing health care for all. The government also promised free school milk and dinners. There was a desperate housing shortage. The government was to look into the building of new towns, and promised cash to cities like Coventry and Hull, which had been severely damaged. 1946 also saw the first civil flights from Heathrow and the reintroduction of league football following the end of the war.

Finland's boozing elite gulp towards victory in the drink

Jon Hanley on board the Silja Scandinavia

ONLOOKERS toppled around them, but Matti Puustinen and Risto Saikkonen kept their heads up — and the contents of their stomachs more or less down — to

wipe the floor with the opposition in Finland's seaborne drinking championship. Chaired on by a 200-strong crowd on the disco deck of the Silja Scandinavia ferry churning through the Baltic at the weekend, Mr Puustinen downed eight bottles of beer in 1 minute and 10.76 seconds

— a feat broadcast live on Finnish radio. Mr Saikkonen's two-gulp technique sent down 0.3 litres in 1.61 seconds, winning him the Small Tankard class. "It was okay — a fair result," said Mr Saikkonen, a tourism student aged 34. He also won the Single Bottle event "I prepared for the final round by meditating on my technique. And I had a practice in the sauna."

The contestants had been selected from about 5,000 entrants in qualifiers held around Finland — renowned for its prodigious drinking. "It's a combination of art and sport," said Mr Puustinen, a mechanic aged 21. "It takes a lot of experience and a lot of practice — with water, not beer." Despite having consumed 14 pints, Mr Puustinen — who threw up only once during the entire event — bounced back to win a late-night final round, downing the one-pint Large Tankard in 2.45 seconds. "Don't try this at home," Harri Fajari, the championship organiser, warned spectators. "It's the gas — it just has to come back up again."


But if the champions stayed relatively sober, many of the 1,500 passengers did not. "The Finns have a very different alcohol culture to other European countries," said a resigned Thomas Junell, the cruise host. "Basically, it's nothing to do with socialising — it's about getting drunk." Last week police and social laws and high taxes have fostered a Nordic tradition of "booze cruises" where passengers buy cheap duty-free and drink their fill. By Saturday afternoon some were already out for the count. But early on Sunday, a victorious Mr Saikkonen thought it might be time for a few beers. "Just six or seven," he said. "Now I might get drunk." He plotted a careful course through swaying passengers trying to control beer-laden shopping-trolleys, avoiding prone bodies in gangways. An ambulance stood ready on the quayside as the ferry docked at 8am. Flinging off numbly, the passengers headed unknowingly towards another challenge: up the road, police were waiting with breathalysers at a roadblock.


Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that its mortgage rates are being reduced from 1 May 1996 for new and existing customers.

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 Clydesdale Bank

 Plugged in and turned off, the audio-zombies move through the gallery tracing preordained steps, obeying the voices in their heads.

G2 cover story

Government to encourage handing over babies

Adoption law aims at single mothers

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

THE Government has drawn up proposals to try to encourage single mothers-to-be to consider handing their babies over for adoption. The Department of Health is to publish a draft bill updating the adoption law, and intended to make adoption a valid and acceptable alternative to abortion or the struggle of bringing up an unwanted child. At the same time, it wants to stamp out the "political correctness" and red tape which complicate many applications for adoption, making it clear to local authorities that upper age limits for prospective adoptive parents are unacceptable. Yesterday John Bowis, the health minister, told the Guardian that the changes were designed to make the law — which came into force when more babies were available for adoption — more relevant to society today, while simplifying adoption procedures. The draft bill — which would be included in a future legislative programme — is due to be published over the next few days, along with a consultation paper and a guidance circular being sent

out to local authorities' social services departments. "We are trying to promote adoption as an acceptable and valid alternative to abortion and the burden of bringing up an unwanted child," Mr Bowis said. "But we are most certainly not putting pressure on any mother to use this route if she doesn't want to." He made clear that the new rules will apply equally to single mothers and those in established relationships, although the Government is known to be concerned about the increasing number of pregnancies and births among under-age girls. The new rules are reported to give courts the power to override natural parents who refuse to consent to adoption orders, if they are deemed to be in the child's interest. Official statistics show that since 1977 — the year after the Adoption Act — the number of children adopted has roughly halved from 13,000 to fewer than 7,000 now, while the number of abortions has risen to 160,000 a year, reckoned to be around one in five of all pregnancies. The reduction in the number of children available for adoption is due to abortion and the growing tendency for people to have smaller families. Mr Bowis also said the new rules were designed to crack down on some of the "politi-

cally correct" adoption policies of some local authorities, which discriminate on the grounds of age, education or race. "It is ridiculous to have a cut-off point of, say, 35 for mothers, when women can naturally bear children long after that," he said. "In addition, older parents can often provide a more stable environment for children, particularly if they already have experience of bringing them up." Mr Bowis said the new rules also take account of the fact that prospective adoptive parents are increasingly looking abroad for children. They will ease the legal and immigration procedures for countries that are signed up to the nationally approved system in place under the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption. In addition, bureaucratic complications involved, for example, where a mother remarries and has to "adopt" her own child with her new partner, will be ended. The new rules would allow a stepfather to take legal responsibility for the child, giving him the same legal status as an adoptive father. The Government expects the consultation exercise to take two to three months.

Letters, page 8

Baby for second girl, 12

Births prompt fears that young getting poor birth control advice

Sally Weale

A PLEA was made last night for better contraceptive education for young people after reports that a West Midlands girl recently gave birth, days after her 12th birthday. The baby, whose father is a 14-year-old boy, is thought to have been delivered at the girl's home in Wolverhampton. It is the second such case to emerge within a few days, prompting fears that youngsters are receiving inadequate advice on birth control. Last week police and social workers in south Wales began an inquiry after a 12-year-old

girl gave birth to a baby boy in Swansea's Singleton hospital after refusing to have an abortion. David Nolan, of the Birth Control Trust, said yesterday: "This shows that more money needs to be spent on promoting contraception and advice for young people. Parents and teachers have to judge when the time is right to give out this vital advice." Such cases were extremely rare, he said, but there were risks involved when the mother was so young. Details of the birth emerged after a Midlands-based counselling service for young girls received an anonymous call last month from someone asking for help for a 12-year-old

who had given birth. Mary Harding, of Wolverhampton's Blenheim Organisation, which took the call, said: "Under-age pregnancies have become more frequent, and the situation is quite alarming." Yesterday Jock Gallagher, a spokesman at the girl's local hospital, New Cross in Wolverhampton, said: "The birth took place somewhere in Wolverhampton. I believe it may have been a home birth, as we do not have a record of the child actually being born here." Duty staff at Wolverhampton council and local police last night had no details of the case. A police spokesman said: "There would certainly be concerns given this girl's age. As far as we know, at the moment there's no police investigation going on."

Hector

hec.ball@carpeonline.com

Amateur Dramatist

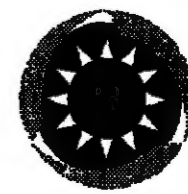
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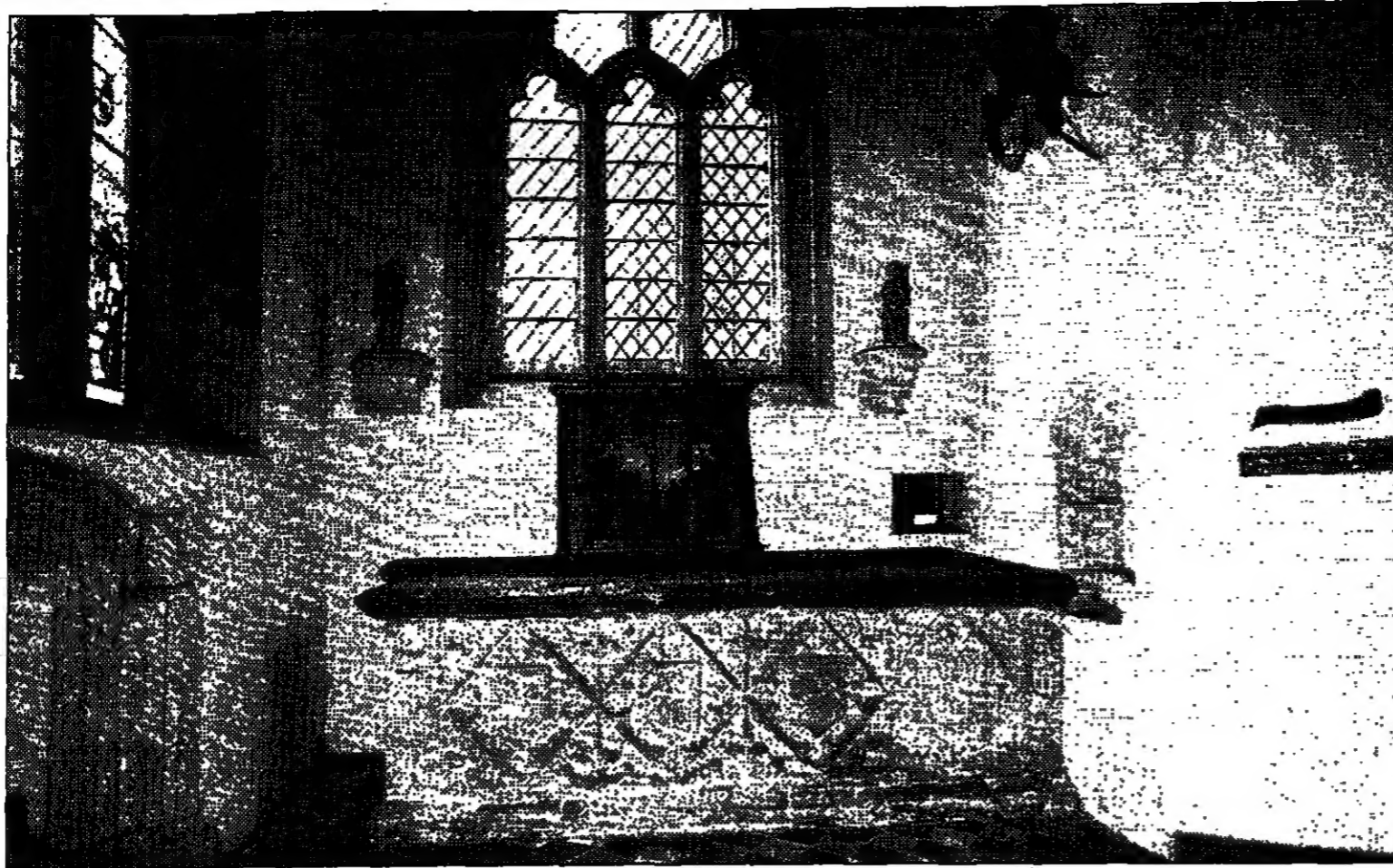
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4 BRITAIN



Maev Kennedy on the dilemma facing a church with a tomb relic too valuable for it to ever display



The Barendyne Helm (above left), which dates from around 1500 and once hung over its owner's tomb in the village church

Legal joust looms over plan to sell medieval helm

AN exceptionally rare medieval jousting helm is being sold by an Oxfordshire church, despite doubts about the legality of such sales.

Armouries a £10,000 grant, subject to being satisfied about the sale's legality. However, one expert warned that its sale would set a dangerous precedent for the disposal of other church treasures.

The property of the churches, but of the families which placed them there. Other ecclesiastical courts have held that such armour can only be sold if the heir-at-law is traced.

never be shown there set a dangerous precedent for other church valuables, such as silver, which have been on display in treasuries. It could now be argued they should be sold as the connection with their churches was permanently broken.

The Barendyne Helm is the best of only five such surviving pieces. The others are in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, the Bargello Museum in Florence, Sherborne Castle in Dorset and the Wallace Collection in Hertford House, central London.

Almost nothing is known of Sir William Barendyne except that his tomb records he was three times high sheriff of Oxfordshire. But Mr Eaves said: "The helm shows clear signs of having been used, and has the marks where it was struck by a lance, so you might wonder how good he was."

Rescue bid after girl 'forced into marriage'

Erland Clouston

GLASGOW councilor files to Pakistan tomorrow in an attempt to rescue a Strathclyde girl aged 14 from her forced marriage to a shopkeeper aged 40.

refused to sign her marriage document.

Earlier Rifat, due to start an honours degree in biosciences at Glasgow Caledonian university, was ordered to abandon her current fiancé and marry an illiterate cousin aged 27. Despite initial reluctance, she is now apparently reconciled to the union.

Mohammad Sarwar has already arranged for six armed guards to protect the house where Nazia Haq, her mother and younger sister are taking refuge after a summer holiday turned into a nightmare of imprisonment, beatings, and involuntary nuptials.

The mother, Nazia, and Somera are now in hiding following their return to the UK after the intervention of Pakistani police, alerted by Mrs Haq's outraged relatives.

Mr Sarwar said yesterday: "My first priority is to ensure the women's safety." Police confirmed that they had been investigating since July the apparent abduction of four female members of the Haq family.

Mr Sarwar, a cash-and-carry millionaire, hopes to become Labour's candidate for the Govan constituency. The councillor for the Pollok-shields district described the behaviour of Mr Haq, whom he knows, as appalling. "It's difficult to believe that a father could treat his family like this."

Fatima Haq, aged 48, and her three daughters, Nazia, Rifat, aged 20, and Somera, aged nine, were allegedly seized by kidnappers wielding hockey-sticks shortly after travelling from the UK to the north Pakistani city of Multan. Their capture was apparently co-ordinated by Abdul Haq, aged 59, who had followed his wife and daughters.

Mr Haq, a businessman who operated in Glasgow for 20 years before returning east last summer, could face a charge of procuring his daughter for under-age sex.

Two weeks later, Nazia, a second-year pupil at Glasgow's Hillhead High school, and then aged 13, was married to her father's nephew, Mohammad Iqbal. It is alleged that in the days preceding the ceremony the woman was dragged and beaten and Nazia was warned that her mother would be shot if she

As Britain has no extradition treaty with Pakistan, Mr Haq's fate will depend on the attitude of that country's government. Under Islamic law as it operates in Pakistan, women can only be married over the age of 16 and never against their will.

The Foreign Office said it had asked the High Commission in Islamabad to make inquiries.



Mohammad Sarwar... 'priority is the women's safety'

'No clear cause' for fall in breast cancer deaths

Chris Whittle Medical Correspondent

DEATH rates from breast cancer are falling in England and Wales and in other Western countries, although researchers are unclear why, a report published today says.

cancer scientists say it is now being echoed in many neighbouring countries—although not all. Breast cancer deaths in England and Wales peaked in 1986 and 1987 at around 67 per 100,000 women. They have been falling since and are now around 50 per 100,000 women.

There has been a levelling off or a fall in deaths. The fall is most marked among women under 50.

The four countries not showing a fall are Belgium, Hungary, Poland and Spain, but this may be because they had comparatively low rates to begin with.

and better treatment. Screening to pick up breast cancer at an early, treatable, stage is thought to be having an effect in countries where it has been in place for a number of years, but the researchers say it is too soon yet to quantify its effect in Britain.

is protective, and this could be working through into the likely run-up to a Labour government. "They have decided they do not want a policy that will embarrass a Labour government and are laying down dead before we've even got one," said Rosie Woods, a NUS executive member and supporter of Left Unity, the student wing of the Trotskyist group, Socialist Organiser.

Advertisement for Edna Cyberpunk. Features a woman's face and text: 'Edna Cyberpunk Uses Europe Online for bargain hunting, queue jumping and blowing away alien mutants'. Includes contact info: 0800 10 66 10.

NUS leaders face grants battle

Gary Younge reports on a second attempt by Blairites to ditch free education policy

STUDENTS gather in Blackpool today for an explosive NUS conference as the Blairite leadership attempts to overturn the union's support for the principle of free education.

last May, will be debated again tomorrow. Both sides admit the vote will be close, so the support of the growing number of non-aligned delegates will be decisive.

Opponents say the move is an attempt by the leadership to 'soften up' student opinion in the likely run-up to a Labour government. "They have decided they do not want a policy that will embarrass a Labour government and are laying down dead before we've even got one," said Rosie Woods, a NUS executive member and supporter of Left Unity, the student wing of the Trotskyist group, Socialist Organiser.

The conference is taking place against a backdrop of a massive increase in student poverty and a trend of making students bear the brunt of government cuts. Grants have been cut by 20 per cent in the past two years. An NUS Values For Money survey in February last year found one in three students missed meals because of hardship, one in four considered dropping out, one in three worked part-time during term and one in two thought their financial situation was having an adverse effect upon their academic work.

Rape campaigners' centre faces eviction in rent row

Maggie O'Kane

LONDON women's centre, whose campaigning has led to a number of changes in the law on rape—including getting rape in marriage recognised as a crime—is due to be evicted from its premises today.

national significance, should not be funded by a local council. The Housing Association, a charity providing subsidised housing, said it wants the centre to pay a commercial rent of £6,000 a year. "We do not think it is our job to pay for voluntary organisations," said spokesman Mick Sweeney.

Senior Citizens with money in the bank should read this before it's too late

If you have worked hard all your life and managed to put away a nest egg, you could end up losing most of your life savings because of exorbitant nursing home fees that the State won't pay.

pitfalls to avoid. It shows how you can protect your home from being sold to pay for care costs. It also shows how you can use your legal rights to protect your life savings for yourself, your spouse or your heirs. But it is absolutely essential you make any arrangements in good time.

The £30,000 Orange Prize casts its net wider than any other prize in the world, insists Kate Mosse, who is chairing the first panel of judges. As long as they happen to be women.

G2 page 10

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off. Includes text like 'Cut in', 'All I know don't trust scientists', and 'Senior Citizens with money in the bank should read this before it's too late'.

rescue big
ter girl
raced into
marriage

grants batt

Ministry accused of helping to destroy the farming industry by trying to protect it at the expense of the consumer

Cut in aid 'helped the spread of BSE'

Decision may be near on slaughter

John Mullin

THE eradication of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had been made much more difficult by the Government's decision two years ago to cut compensation to farmers with infected cattle, a medical expert said last night.

Douglas Latto, chairman of the board of governors of the British Safety Council, said some farmers, faced with losing money, had instead decided to sell cattle at the first sign of the disease either at market or in the abattoir. "Cattle which should have been incinerated have been getting into the food chain."

The Ministry of Agriculture cut compensation in January 1994. Farmers who hand over cows with BSE for incineration now get only the value of an older cow, a loss of about £200 on the approximate £900 for a healthy animal.

The ministry had acknowledged that the decision was such a policy four years earlier. It had raised the 50 per cent compensation level, on offer from August 1988, to the full market amount in February 1990.

Dr Latto said: "There is no doubt that the change in policy has contributed to a much higher incidence of BSE than would otherwise be the case. The ministry's policy throughout has been counter-productive. It has tried to protect the industry instead of the consumer, and by doing so, is helping to destroy it."

Amid growing panic within Britain's beef farming community, Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, signed the industry's request to bow to Labour demands for the slaughter of cattle born before 1980, when an offal ban was introduced and farmers were banned from feeding meat and bone meal to cattle.

More than half the country's 25,000 schools are thought to have taken beef off the menu. Pat Fellows, national chairman of the Local Authority Caterers Association, said: "Having been involved in this issue for some months, I am getting more and more concerned. On a personal level, I think we have to be safer rather than sorry, and we should not give schoolchildren beef products."

Michael Young, of the Food Safety Advisory Committee, said it was important that the Government come up with proposals to deal with the problem quickly, but implementation should not be down to the Ministry of Agriculture. It had conflicting roles in representing both the industry and the consumer.

They seemed reconciled to a policy of selective slaughter as long as it came with full compensation. That would cost the government about £1 billion.

McDonald's move, if permanent, would cost the beef industry at least £25 million a year, but the National Farmers' Union conceded that the effect of publicity surrounding the move was incalculable. It is the world's second most recognised brand name, behind Coca-Cola. One official called it "the most devastating development since the Government said that 10 young people with CJD may have contracted it from beef."

Another farmer said: "There is no livelihood now. There is no export trade and no home trade. The abattoirs are just shutting up shop."

Paul Preston, chief executive of McDonald's UK, said he was confident British beef was safe, but it was the customers' view which counted. Even if the Government announced new measures, the ban would remain if customers remained suspicious.

Sales of beef are down by a third. Supermarkets were slashing the prices of beef at lunch-time on Saturday but were still unable to encourage Severn are considering a switch to foreign-produced beef. Bill Shannon, general manager of Co-op brands, said: "What we need is some clarity on how to manage this problem."

There are fears about employment. There are 40,000 farm holdings with dairy cows and 72,100 with beef cows. Some of them overlap. The abattoir sector employs 15,400 people.

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As McDonald's announced it was no longer serving British beef, farmers were desperate for government action.



Beef is off the menu at this McDonald's in Shaftesbury Avenue in London's West End until supplies of European beef arrive. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Soundbites on beef

"We have to get rid of the infected herds, and replace them in a sensible way on new ground, and that is the problem because the infection can persist on grass for years" Professor Richard Lacey of Leeds University

"[That is] the most extraordinary statement I have ever heard. Professor Lacey must be in a minority of one" Leading vet Dr Rosalind Ridley

"People are now making up their own minds and ignoring the Government — who are so arrogant and out of touch that they no longer seem to notice that the public doesn't trust them" Shadow health secretary Harriet Harman

Chicken McSandwich fills the Big Mac gap

Martin Walkerwright

Fast food outlets winning fight against burger backlash

ONE thing was missing from the cheerful family's lunch yesterday, at McDonald's in Guseley on the outskirts of Leeds.

Among the dabs of ketchup, split chips, and five-year-old Sophie's Happy Meal mouse toy, there was not a speck of burger, Big Mac, or any other form of beef.

"We wouldn't have ordered burgers even if they had been on the menu," said Mrs Sukie Blackburn, who gave up the meat in December when Professor Bernard Tomlinson announced his personal boycott. "We'd already stopped giving it to the children," added her husband, Philip, who is in textile sales. "I've not been so worried for myself, but the uncertainty has persuaded me now."

Sunday lunch custom was down at the usually packed restaurant and "drive-thru", but there were still queues at all five counters and few seats to be had round the yellow and red tables and booths.

THE Big Mac and Quarterpounder might be off the menu, but there is still plenty to sink your teeth into for a fast food fix, writes Vivek Chaudhary.

McDonald's vegetarian burgers are very popular at £1.55 each or £2.55 including french fries and a soft drink.

Other burger outlets also have plenty of alternatives. "We've got an assortment of fish dishes, chicken burgers and jacket potatoes. There's still a great variety of dishes on offer, despite the fact that not many people are choosing to eat beef these days," said a spokesman for Fatty Arbuckles.

"We've got vegetable lasagne, burgers and vegetable salads."

gets at £1.59 for six pieces. Another option is fillet of fish at £1.99, or £2.88 including fries and soft drink.

"We were doing pizzas but unfortunately that promotion has stopped," said a spokesman for Fatty Arbuckles.

Other burger outlets also have plenty of alternatives.

The huge number of takeaway kebab restaurants across the country also provide beef dissenters with useful alternatives.

Then of course, there are the traditional fish and chip shops, and the growing popularity of Indian food means that a quick non-beef snack can be just as enticing as a succulent burger.

Back at McDonald's, the Flet-o-Fish was duly going well, while the chain's new Vegetable Deluxe, introduced in response to customer demand, is expected to arrive in Leeds shortly after successful trials in the North-west. Staff are meanwhile preparing to flag up the Dutch beef burgers due to come to the rescue on Thursday.

Huge posters of Ronald McDonald in a windmill and clogs?

"No," said Robert Parker of McDonald's British headquarter. "But we will certainly be making sure that customers know where we get our beef."

Manager John Hanson was told to withdraw all beef products only on Saturday night, promptly stepping up his Chicken McSandwich and Nuggets order and running the Big Breakfast menu for an extra hour-and-a-half to midday.

"We've still had plenty of people asking for burgers today, mind you," he said. "We've got every confidence in our product, but in present circumstances, it's going to be European beef only, starting on Thursday. Still, when we've told that to customers

wanting beef this morning, their reaction has been mostly just surprise."

Matthew Jacques, aged 24, and two friends visiting Leeds from Birmingham bore this out, eating their unaccustomed McSandwiches under a shelf of McFace Cards on 100 per cent pure beef — "only prime cuts of lean forequarter and flank are used." Mr Jacques would have gone for burgers had they been available.

"I think it's a bit of media thing," said his friend, Richard Bateson, aged 23. But Cheryl Evans, downing a cof-

fee at the next table, disagreed. "There just aren't enough definite facts being given," she said.

"No wonder people are worried. I mean, suppose you're taking codliver oil pills — I heard this morning that they've got beef extract in as well."

Philip Blackburn had taken in a similar report about chicken stock cubes containing beef, while Sukie, restaurateur and the traditional cause as long as ever — though concerned about beef used in mix for baking cakes.

"Where isn't it?" she said. "You feel as though the answer is to eat nothing, though that's hardly practical." Pragmatic rather than practical, Kevin O'Hara at a nearby table commented: "Eat a burger. It would simply depend on how hungry I felt. If anything has gone wrong, it's a bit late for me to be worried."

A mile up the road at Harry Ramsden's Fish-and-Chip restaurant the traditional cause was as long as ever — though customers were not under any illusions about escaping

the impact of the latest BSE scare will be catastrophic for large parts of the farming industry, but sees a ray of hope for organic producers because of the nature of the product. Much of the farm's output is sold direct to the consumer and through farm shops.

Ian Shears, who runs Highfield Harvest Organic Farm Shop at Topsham, Devon, has had one of his busiest weeks in the retail trade. "I am not rejoicing about it but we have been hating away to get the organic message across for a long time."

He said the scare was making people think more carefully on a general level about what they were eating. He had completely sold out of organic milk during the week and was selling a lot of gelatine-free jelly.

VIEW FROM THE FARM: a traditional farmer (below left) and an organic farmer (below right) on the controversy threatening thousands of jobs

'All I know is I don't trust scientists'

IN ALL the uncertainty about BSE and CJD, the only certain thing I know is that I do not trust scientists.

Too often in recent years we have been subjected to some headline-grabbing scientific statement that has turned out to be a complete load of organic manure.

Do you remember the Great Egg That Edwina Laid (on the finest scientific evidence, of course)? The knee jerks that

followed drove a lot of egg producers out of business, but the incidence of salmonella has continued to rise sharply.

Beware the scientist waving a clean bill of health. I know from working as a sheep dipping contractor that organo-phosphorous sheep dips make you ill. For years scientists disputed that, but medical opinion now is that OPs may be a significant contributory factor to Parkinson's disease.

My own, totally unscientific, observation over the years does suggest that when it comes to man versus nature, nature will get you in the end. I don't know whether BSE was caused by feeding herbivores the crushed, dried and powdered corpses of other diseased animals, but it is hardly a natural diet.

Farmers were obliged by law to protect cattle against warble fly by pouring some very nasty organo-phosphorous liquid along their spines. We do not know — and Maff [Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food] is not saying — what its long-term effects might be.

For years we have fought disease with antibiotics. Now nature is producing resistant strains of bugs which, a doctor friend tells me, are frightening the medical profession. That may be the next public panic.

All forms of intensive livestock rearing move away from nature, and without these systems we cannot feed ever-growing populations.

Nature does not like overpopulation. It has three tried and trusted remedies for it — war, famine and pestilence. We may well be in for a spot of pestilence.

My doctor friend has a "worst case scenario" of 10 million CJD cases by 2005. No one knows what causes it, but there has to be a scapegoat — and it looks as though it is going to be beef.

I shall do my best for beef by continuing to eat it. But I am prepared to bet that some scientist will pop up with the news that CJD has no connection to beef whatsoever — but will we believe him?

R. W. F. Poole is a farmer in Alnwick, Northumberland

'We have been struggling to get message across'

TIM and Jo Budden are seething at the way all beef farmers are being tarred with the BSE brush.

For the past 11 years they have farmed 300 acres at Burrington, north Devon, and pride themselves on the quality of the beef and lamb they produce.

Despite the disincentives inherent in government

subsidy schemes they have turned Higher Hacknell Farm into a fully organic business, and run a pedigree herd of about 100 cattle, a flock of 850 sheep and 40 acres of organically-produced corn.

"We are a self-contained herd and have very strict controls on feedstuffs which have to be approved by the Soil Association," Tim Budden said yesterday. "Our calves get their pro-

tein from their mothers' milk, we grow our own oats and the cattle are fattened on clover grassland. We have proved you can produce excellent meat without using hormones and fertilisers."

The Buddens' self contained herd has never had so much as a suggestion of BSE, but they are nervous about the all-embracing impact of the CJD scare. "I am deeply critical of what they see as "stupendous bungling" by the Government in its handling of the issue."

"The problem has largely arisen from within the dairy industry, where calves removed from their mothers had to be fed with animal proteins. The majority of traditional calf producers are BSE free."

Tim Budden fears that

the impact of the latest BSE scare will be catastrophic for large parts of the farming industry, but sees a ray of hope for organic producers because of the nature of the product. Much of the farm's output is sold direct to the consumer and through farm shops.

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LEGOLAND

6 WORLD NEWS

Little unity on union in Germany

In Turin this week, Europe's leaders open the long and potentially acrimonious inter-governmental conference to review the Maastricht treaty and map out the shape and powers of the European Union.



WERNER Hoyer, ardent Euro-integrationist and effectively Germany's cabinet minister for the European Union, is fond of citing the great German public in support of the Euro-federalist policies he tirelessly espouses.

and Munich's Sueddeutsche Zeitung have been telling a different, probably more accurate, tale. Just over half of those Germans surveyed said the Bonn parliament should be responsible for foreign and security policy, as opposed to 38 per cent who would vest this authority in the EU.

the British White Paper on the EU proved how the Government was incapable of action. Mr Lammer repeated the clichéd refrain that the Franco-German motor of European Union was running on all cylinders.

Queen's historic visit stirs war memories

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Warsaw today, kicking off a visit to post-communist central Europe. It will be the first time a reigning British monarch has set foot in either Poland or the Czech lands.



Mixed reception... In Prague (above) wartime experiences of Britain and France still rankle. There will be a warmer reception in Poland for the Queen.



Czechoslovakia to Hitler in Munich in 1938, prompting Chamberlain's empty claims of having achieved "peace in our time".

War, in March 1939, the Germans occupied and partitioned all of Czechoslovakia, establishing a puppet fascist regime in Slovakia and a Bohemian protectorate in the Czech lands.

appeasement, this time towards the Russians. In its wariness of allowing the former Soviet satellites to join Nato for fear of offending Moscow.

The US first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, sought to boost the morale of families of US troops on peacekeeping duty in Bosnia yesterday as she opened an eight-day goodwill tour at the 1st Armoured Division base at Bamberg, Germany.

State elections give boost to Bonn coalition

Our Correspondent in Bonn

THE German opposition's attempt to steal Chancellor Helmut Kohl's thunder and portray itself as the guardian of German jobs flopped humbly yesterday when the Social Democrats lost up to five percentage points in regional polls.

questions would have been raised about the longevity of the national coalition. But the FDP scored nearly 10 per cent in Baden-Württemberg and comfortably qualified for parliament in the other two polls.

Church 'colluded with Paris to expel refugee protesters'

Alex Duvall Smith in Paris

THE French Catholic Church colluded with police over the expulsion of more than 60 immigrants who had occupied a Paris church, human rights activists claimed yesterday.

Four hundred immigrants, some asylum-seekers and others with French-born children or spouses, occupied Saint-Ambroise last Monday, demanding swift action to secure their status in France.

World news in brief

Bosnian rivals prepare to free prisoners

BOSNIA's former warring parties geared up to release more prisoners yesterday after the big powers threatened to withhold reconstruction aid if they reneged on obligations undertaken in the Dayton peace accord.

Colum Murphy, a spokesman for Carl Bildt, the international community's High Representative in Bosnia.

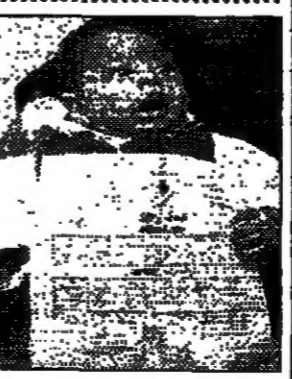
economic consequences," Mr Murphy said. Prime ministers from five big powers met on Saturday and vowed to postpone a fundraising conference for Bosnian reconstruction if the parties did not release their prisoners.

Minsk marches against merger

Up to 30,000 Belarusians staged an unprecedented post-Soviet rally yesterday against their president's plans to merge with Russia, marching through Minsk and besieging state television offices.

Benin comeback

Former Marxist military ruler Mathieu Kérékou consolidated his dramatic comeback in Benin yesterday, when its top court proclaimed him winner of its presidential election.



Jordanian infant Yitzhak Rabin - named for the slain Israeli leader - holds his birth certificate yesterday

Nasa savours docking success as it plans for joint space station

AS astronauts slept after the docking of space shuttle Atlantis with the Russian space station Mir, Nasa chiefs paused yesterday to savour the third successful rendezvous with Mir.

two years of American presence" on board Mir. Atlantis astronauts Linda Godwin and Rick Clifford will conduct the first spacewalk while the shuttle is united with Mir on Wednesday.

Escapes hunted At least 16 people have been killed in Libya in four days of clashes between the army and about 400 escaped prisoners, travellers arriving in an Egyptian border town said yesterday.

Obasanjo moved

One of Nigeria's best-known political prisoners, former president Olusegun Obasanjo, has been moved to another jail, apparently to protect him from a meningitis epidemic sweeping the country.

Murder cover-up

Two Guatemalan presidents, two defence ministers and high-ranking military officers paid by the CIA helped cover up the facts of the killing of Michael Devine, an American innkeeper in Guatemala in 1980, US officials have concluded.

GREENPEACE logo and text: 'Isn't the future of our world worth 33p a day? 0800-374428'

Profile G2 page 4 advertisement: 'Most people see Tony Parsons as an angry polemicist, a bad-boy street ranter, and yet how far that is from the truth. His interviews are, more than anything else, extended expressions of gratitude that he has been allowed into the presence.'

Cheap food for thought
Beef is not the only issue

THERE'S a difference at McDonald's today all right. The country's largest burger chain has stopped selling burgers. Not because they think there is anything wrong with their British beef products but because the public has suddenly stopped buying them for fear of mad cow disease.

At times like this it is easy to get carried away on a roller-coaster of possibilities. Hundreds of thousands of people unknowingly incubating a potentially fatal condition is the stuff, if true, of catastrophic future shock.

It was abandoned when I was around one month old in December 1942 on Victoria Embankment, Westminster. I have been attempting to find out about my being found and my subsequent adoption (lost and found, March 4).

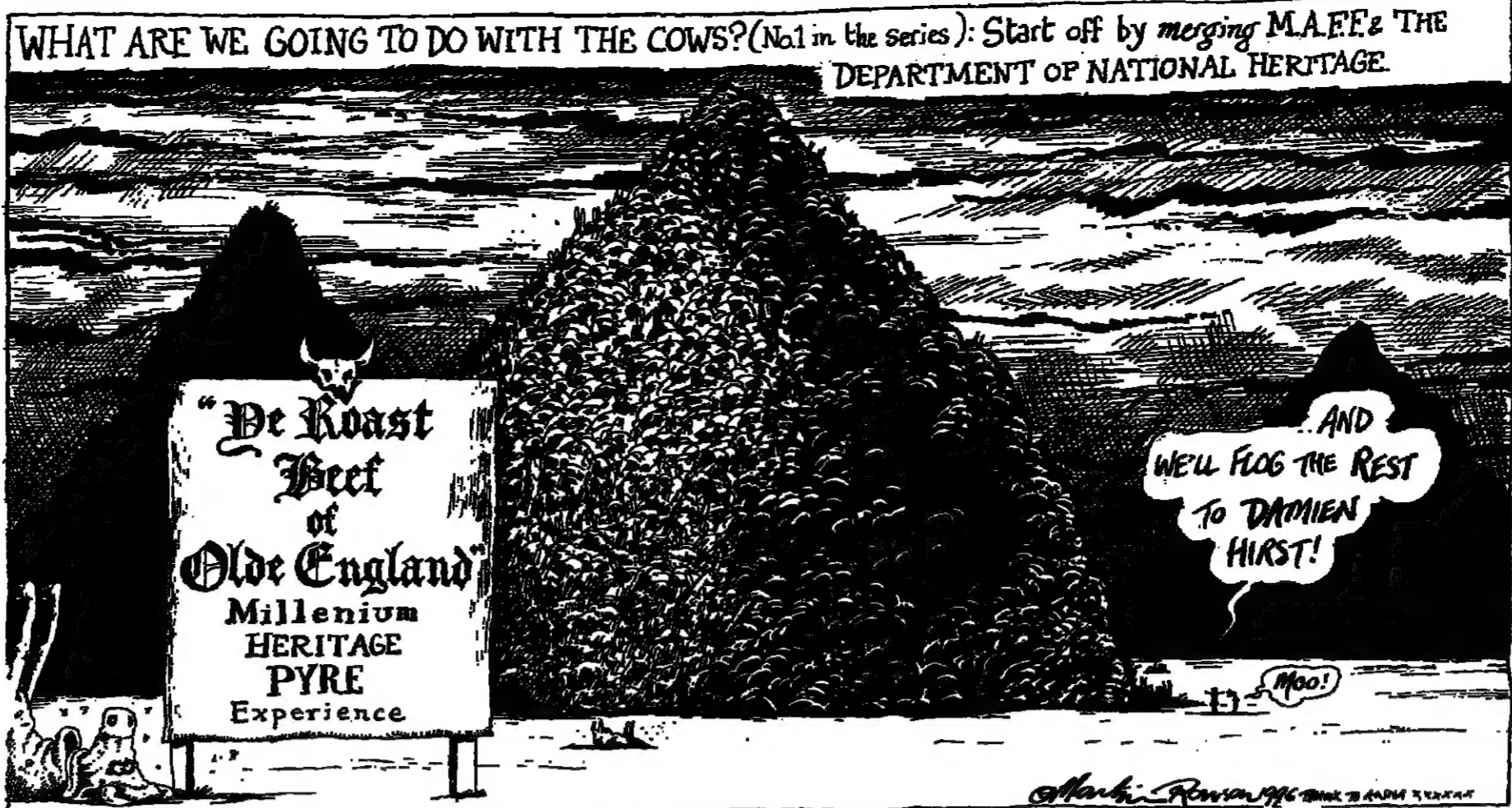
Martial make-believe
The Chinese need to live with reality

CHINA'S leaders have scored a famous victory indeed. Beijing claims that by firing its cannons in the Taiwan Straits it successfully dissuaded the people of Taiwan from voting for the overtly pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party.

The fascinating but as yet unanswered question is whether someone behind the vermilion walls of Deng's Xiaoping's forbidden city made a big mistake or whether it was part of a grand design.

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Letters to the Editor

Lost lives and jobs

I WAS abandoned when I was around one month old in December 1942 on Victoria Embankment, Westminster. I have been attempting to find out about my being found and my subsequent adoption (lost and found, March 4).

My research led me to the Greater London Record Office (GLRO) where, to my delight, I discovered that two archive files were held about me. To my intense disappointment, it was explained that GLRO policy would not allow me to view the contents of the files nor could photocopies be sent to me.

I found the GLRO's treatment appalling. I would naturally have savoured the opportunity to have read these files in my own time, decided for myself what was of interest and taken notes at my expense.

Nearly 800 BBC transmission staff will lose their jobs and careers if this privatisation goes ahead. Your readers will recognise a basic dishonesty here.

As China's rage subsides and the possibility of war by miscalculation recedes, the whole affair begins to look more like a martial display on the Chinese opera stage where no one actually hits anyone else — unless we were just lucky.

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Let's try a new menu tonight

BSE is not an isolated crisis in food policy. Food is a key factor in our main sources of premature death — coronary disease and some cancers (bowel cancer). The food industry is wont to trumpet its successes in delivering cheap food, but never remind us that we pay, as citizens, billions of extra pounds under different budgetary accounts.

Under health, we pay for food poisoning. Under environment, we pay for cleaning up pesticide and nitrate residues in water and soil. Under transport, we pay for motorways of which the retailers and manufacturers are disproportionately high users.

Some success story, this food policy of ours. Time for a rethink, I suspect. Prof. Sir John Hargrett, Centre for Food Policy, Thames Valley University.

IT IS time to remind readers just how large a part of the responsibility for the terrible outbreak of BSE is born by the Government. The last Labour government had passed regulations to control the production of ruminant derived protein, in particular for use in animal feed.

De-regulation as usual means less stringent procedures, causing animal feed not to be heated to appropriate temperatures, which allowed the scrapie contagion from the sheeps' brains to survive the rendering process and cause the BSE outbreak.

IT IS time that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food gave up its secret ways and explained to the public that over 85 per cent of beef breeding herds and 85 per cent of commercial beef herds are entirely free, and have always been entirely free, of BSE.

NICK Budge proposes a two-tier price system with BSE-infected herds charging lower prices. The conclusion to that is that people on low incomes who eat beef will have no choice but to eat infected meat.

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Straight As, both wrong

ALAN CLARK (Letters, March 22) has got his facts wrong. In 1990 the homicide rate in Switzerland was about five times that in England and Wales and one of the highest in Europe.

Switzerland has one of the lowest overall crime rates and, in particular, one of the lowest violent crime rates in Europe. If, as is the case in the US, gun availability was linked to a high rate of violence generally, one would expect the Swiss to murder each other even more frequently.

HAS Claudio Abbado (Letters, March 22) never heard the saying, "He who pays the piper, calls the tune"? People who buy CDs are paying for what they want. If they want the best bits, they should be given them. Each wrote for patrons (including local churches). Mozart adapted things so they would sell. The modern patron is the music-buying public.

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A Country Diary

NORWICH: Looking at today's Norfolk landscapes, with their tame blocks of woodland hemmed in by roads and expanses of ploughland, I find it difficult to believe that this was once a place for wolves and bears.

THE delays, whilst undeniably serious, affected a relatively small proportion of students. The problems were also short-lived: they were fully resolved by January 15, 1995. Around 93 per cent of students who applied for a loan in academic year 1994/95 had their applications dealt with in a timely fashion.

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Remember the poet, not the politician

Endpiece
Roy Hattersley

FOR years I have resolutely refused to attend memorial services. My aversion dates back to my father's funeral in 1972. He died a city councillor and chairman of the Sheffield health committee. So "representatives" of various local interests turned up at the municipal crematorium in the black ties which they kept for such occasions.

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think that her threat was based on an inherent inconsistency. I prefer to believe that, even at 82, she remains a mistress of irony and paradox. In our family, we worship ancestors before their death. Usually we do it quietly. Where I come from, we think it right to be reticent about our true feelings. In my insensitivity and ignorance, I thought of memorial services as occasions for public grief. And I regard grief as an essentially private emotion. So, not for me the regular visits to Westminster Abbey in order to mark the passing of men and women whom I barely knew.

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that finds catharsis, and perhaps even comfort, in the swelling anthem and the rolling prose. I always answered that the grieving relatives were unlikely to notice whether I was there or not. Their wish for a "good send-off" would be gratified by a congregation which was at least partly made up by people who wanted my presence to be noticed less by the next of kin than by the Times court and social pages.

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county cricketer than ever. And James Fenton, grown bald since the days of our friendship when he was a political journalist, completed the sporting image with the appearance of an old-fashioned football trainer — the man who ran on with a sponge in the age before physiotherapy was invented.

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to poets. Their work can uplift the congregation. It is hard to imagine a politician's speeches being read out on such an occasion. Few of them travel well. Few still grow old gracefully. The best are too bellicose for recital in church. The worst would make the congregation rejoice for quite the wrong reasons. The best that can be done for so-called statesmen is a recital of their virtues. Rarely is there a sampler of their work on view.

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Yorkshiremen never walk alone

READERS who have been following the (Sony Walkman patents trial, the Walkman claim rejected, March 22) may be interested to learn that the Walkman was actually invented by J B Priestley.

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Loan truths

THE Student Loans Company has acknowledged and apologised for the problems following the introduction of a revised application procedure for loans in the summer of 1994. However, your report (MFA condenses with a timely fashion, of nutrition standards from school meals?)

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Taiwan Diary

Andrew Higgins

TWAS a glum night at the OK Karaoke Club. Torrential rain had kept most of the regulars away. Dumping spirits rather than the People's Liberation Army (PLA), shivering grumpily, (no doubt around their own karaoke kits) on the shore just a few miles away after another day of waterlogged war games.

A solitary Taiwanese soldier in jeans crowned timelessly to a schmaltzy Taiwanese love song while three off-duty junior officers in track suits munched strands of dried squid, guzzled cans of Taiwanese beer and bemoaned the boredom of pretending to hold the front line in a civil war that was supposed to have ended nearly half a century ago.

The most up-beat of the trio was a first-year young man in wire-rim spectacles. For him there were only 77 days to go before he could escape Matsui, a bleak, fog-bound island dedicated to the defunct fantasy that Sun Yat-sen had those mainlanders in 1949 but merely misled it. It was from here and Quemoy to the south that Taiwan meant to launch the reconquest of China, a plan long since abandoned.

Waiting for the apocalypse, though, is less fun than reading about it. Aside from the dubious pleasures of karaoke, the closest approximation to the horrors that await Taiwan if the PLA, not known for its appreciation of English literature, ever attacks. Their titles leave little to the imagination: The Coming War, Battle For The Taiwan Strait and, for hard-core pessimists, Final Combat.

On Matsui, mainland China is more than a remote menace. It looms as an immediate reality, its shore clearly visible, on rare days when fog lifts across a narrow sliver of pounding sea. Proximity has turned their stance off into a romance. The Snugglers keep local bars and restaurants stocked with rocket-fuel rice wine from China — so lethal that a warning at Matsui airport orders passengers not to carry illicitly brewed spirits on board aircraft.

Before the PLA even thinks of an attack, I recommend it send undercover agents for a voyage on the Matsui ferry to Taiwanese-controlled islands. They will not need body bags but they will need other receptacles. A barefoot, beta-mut chewing captain pilots the craft with unflappable composure. Sailing, last week, through the force winds and mountainous waves, the boat pitched and heaved like a roller-coaster gone mad. The captain's mate handed out plastic bags to stop passengers soiling the cabin. A colleague from the BBC lost his breakfast. A Japanese photographer turned green. Terrified, I took refuge under the bulkhead to avoid having to watch the prodigious waves.

Such a forecast might explain why, when China last attacked Matsui in 1958, it did so from solid ground. Instead of sending troops, the PLA unleashed a relentless barrage of artillery shells from the shore. When Mao Zedong finally called off the assault he denied having ever wanted to seize any land. This, he said, would only have severed Taiwan's umbilical link with the mainland. But perhaps, like the soldier in the karaoke bar, he grasped the sad truth. There is not much to do in Matsui.



Art à la carte or a look at the full menu?

Commentary

Mark Lawson

THE BIG question of the week in the arts has been: does size matter? Back in the eighties, there was brief — appropriately brief — excitement over the concept of three-minute culture. The idea — born in Los Angeles, lapped up in Hampstead — was that the pace and variety of modern life, with their pressure on the consumer's time, would lead to the compression of entertainment. We were moving in to an age of one-act plays, movie shorts, haikus, and television shows no longer than the length of a commercial.

We weren't. The combination of an economic recession which encouraged price to be judged against size — and industrial submission to artists' insistence that their vision should not be subject to editing — in fact led to a torrent of biceps-threatening novels and bladder-challenging plays and films. In 1996, the average book breaks 300 pages, the standard Hollywood release runs for a third sweep of the watch face.

And yet the question of three-minute culture has suddenly resurfaced in a different guise: quotation culture.

Claudio Abbado, director of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra is suing his record company, Deutsche Grammophon, for extracting passages from his Mahler recordings for use in the currently fashionable anthologies of sad or happy or dramatic hits of classical music.

Simultaneously, a debate has been taking place in the Sunday New York Times about the phenomenon of artistic quotation in popular culture. The new CD-ROM edition of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations includes for the first time 500 "non-verbal quotations", the most popular existing tunes and images recycled by artists, film directors and advertisers. These include Edward Munch's Scream, Richard Strauss's "Also Sprach Zarathustra", Michaelangelo's God and Adam, and Rossini's "William Tell Overture".

One writer warned of "an imminent crisis of creativity: re-use abuse", with creative artists increasingly recycling rather than inventing. Let's take the Abbado case first. The conductor's argument seems to be that the shards of Mahler included in feel-good anthologies are being quoted out of context. People are being offered art that is goujons of Schubert, soupçon of Saint-Saëns. Record companies, he argues, are manufacturing a classical equivalent of the pop single but these pieces are not

tracks from a long-playing album but an integral part of a larger work. The musical canon becomes a litter of "nice bits", which usually means lush and soupy. He also regrets the increasing identification of pieces of music with movies in which they were used, so that, for example, Mahler is known to a generation of listeners solely as Visconti's soundtrack composer on Death in Venice.

Abbado's arguments do have some force. The current Number 1 in his market — Decca's Classic Moods — glitiously promises "over two hours of classical music to free the mind and touch the soul", thus reducing some of the highest achievements of art to a sort of motet Prozac. The sleeve-notes are worse. Shostakovich must be boiling in the soil at being identified with the BBC TV series Dangerfield and "Reilly, Ace Of Spies". EMI's Cinema Classics is even more culpable, effectively presenting the most sublime music-writers in history as back employees of Hollywood.

That clearly is quotation out of context and is a practice which does have an effect on the reception of classical music. "O Sole Mio" has been ruined for a generation by its facetious use in an ice-cream commercial. Listening to my own favourite piece of music — Bach's St Matthew Passion — I am irritatingly distracted during the bank commercial bit and the supernatural

thriller movie bit. Yet there are good cases to be made for the less celluloid-obsessed of these anthologies. A compilation such as "Classic Moods" may offer only shavings of greatness, but greatness it still is, and reaching a wider audience than ever before. And, while these CDs can be easily derided as aural wallpaper, they might equally well function as a wallpaper book: the portion of Satie or Bach on such an album might easily lead a listener to that composer's dedicated section of the record shelves. Poetry anthologies have long worked like this. Indeed, the fragments played on Desert Island Discs have long moulded British musical tastes: it's what originally led me to the St Matthew Passion.

AND, strangely, in another branch of the arts, excerpting is currently the subject of much praise. The fashionable little pamphlets of extracted classics — in the Penguin and Phaidon series, often a quick read for 50p — are nothing if not literary nice bits, prose mood tunes. Yet these have widely been seen as an academically respectable attempt to popularise neglected authors. There is obviously a paradox here. But perhaps this is because classical music is the art which most attracts hands-off snobbery, as the consistent ridiculing of the popularising radio station Classic FM demonstrated.

Abbado also seems not to have realised that excerpting, like it or not, is a natural part of culture. The dynamics of a performance of Hamlet, the importance of Being Earnest, Carmen or The Magic Flute have been altered for modern audiences by the external existence of large parts of the work. There are already writers — Samuel Johnson, Dorothy Parker — who survive only in quotation, their integral works forgotten, and it is

possible that a version of this will happen to certain composers, with Mahler, Copland and Barber the likeliest candidates.

In the original Sunday New York Times article on the subject of "re-use abuse", Thomas Hines, editor of the new edition of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, outlined the prevalence of quotation and excerpting in modern culture. Munch's Scream, for example, was popularised by its use in the poster for the Macaulay Caulkin movie Home Alone, but has more recently become newspaper cartoonist's shorthand for contemporary horrors, widely employed after the Oklahoma bombing. Madison Avenue agencies have frequently taken scrapings of the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Some of this, for Hines, is "just plain laziness".

But the quotation culture is likely to expand. Because of new technology, the art of the past is both more easily recordable and more speedily retrievable, through Internet and CD-ROM facilities. This confers some benefits. For example, academic research which might once have taken months — comparison, for example, of certain writers' work of certain words across history — is now possible in a morning's tapping. But, if history will become more authoritative, imaginative will become more derivative. With the advent of the Internet, the word-based or image-based has gone from being a psychological presence in a writer or painter's head to an actual manifestation in their studio. Quotation, parody and excerpting will become more common.

And such a development would indeed be an invitation to reflection, perhaps in the "Tranquillity, solitude and melancholy" which the first half of the Classic Moods CD promises to evoke. Barber, Adagio for Strings would suit the mood.

A Labour Party Thatcher can be proud of



Paul Foot

WHAT a wonderful month for Thatcherism. Almost every day there's been further proof of the success of the great Thatcherite liberation of the 1980s. The health and safety executive leak a letter to show that if the cuts and the de-regulation continue, industry, and especially the nuclear industry, will be much less safe. And, now, from a government plot to deprive about 10 million workers of their right to go to an industrial tribunal when they are sacked or discriminated against. And, now, from a thoroughly deregulated Agribusiness, comes a new market miracle: a lethal plague of incurable brain disease brought on by eating the infected roast beef of Old England.

Hardly anyone outside a Tory conference argues for the virtues of free enterprise. Ministers have abandoned their ideology, concentrating instead on grabbing the hay before they go out to pasture. Only one set of politicians still believes in Thatcherism on principle. They sit on the Labour front bench. As every day brings more news of free market disasters, Labour changes an old policy or invents a new one. Their commitment to the free market. As a result, it is hard to find a single issue which divides Labour from the Tories. Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, sends me a copy of a letter she has written to Tony Blair comparing Labour's policy on arms exports ("Labour will not sell weapons to regimes which would use them for repressive purposes or threaten to invade neighbouring countries") with that of the Government.

chairman. According to a synoptic press release issued by the university on 5 March, BAT's money will also buy six scholarships for students from developing countries. If the students have to sit an exam, I suggest the following questions — one for every scholarship.

- 1. Using your knowledge of the tobacco industry in your country, estimate the effect on international relations of a vast and greedy multinational company which has concentrated its sales of a highly dangerous product in developing countries.
2. Compare and contrast the bans on tobacco advertising on television and the warning packages on cigarette packs in Britain (where BAT flourishes) with the lack of any similar restrictions in developing countries where BAT flourishes.
3. What effect do you think a company whose combined sales are worth more than the entire national income of most developing countries has on government policy in those countries and its peoples' freedom of speech?
4. Do you think that a free and fair education system can flourish in a country or university where professors are on sale to tobacco companies?
5. How do you rate the intellectual and moral quality of the statement made on BBC2's Newswatch on March 14 by Michael Priddy, a BAT director, that cigarettes are not addictive because "the people have kicked the habit"?
6. Can you think of a drug which kills a thousand times more people than heroin? If so, don't tell your professor!

Ian Black argues that the indictment by Germany of Iran's top spymaster for conspiracy to murder threatens to worsen Tehran's relationship with the West

Shadow of the pariah

NO ONE seriously expects an Iranian minister of intelligence, to turn up in a German court — even after a break during the current Nowruz new year holiday — to stand trial for the murder of a Kurdish dissident in a Berlin restaurant in 1992.

But the indictment of Tehran's top spymaster by its closest friend in Europe may still mark a watershed in the world's leading "pariah" state: after gleefully approving suicide bombings designed to wreck the Arab-Israeli peace process, have the mullahs, real daggers under their cloaks, now managed to widen and unite the opposition against them?

It will be an achievement if they have. Iran has been an American obsession since the country was famously "lost" to the 1979 Islamic revolution. Warren Christopher, Bill Clinton's secretary of state, has never forgotten the humiliation of the embassy hostage crisis that lasted for 444 days: the other hostages who languished in the cellars of Beirut — which also has strong Iranian links — came later and added to America's bitterness.

Most Europeans do not share this: business interests and pragmatism have dictated the nature of their relationships with Iran since the demise of the Peacock Throne. Germany has always valued its sole, though commercially substantial, Middle Eastern foothold, while Britain's links with Tehran — a central thoroughfare engagingly named Bobby Sands Avenue helps set the tone — were poor long before the Salman Rushdie affair.

Yet the rise of political Islam after the end of the cold war and the winding-down of the Arab-Israeli conflict in its familiar inter-state form have thrust Iran to centre stage, paradoxically just as its revolutionary zeal has become far more rhetorical than real. Now it is finally being confronted with its own propaganda. The American "Great Satan" and "Zionist injustice" are still vilified in its newspapers, "tyranny" and "arrogance" are the favourite words in its political lexicon. And even Iran's ostensibly principled positions — such as opposing the extension of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty on the terms of the great powers — look much less so if reports of its own nuclear ambitions are to be believed (and Iran's modest clandestine progress remembered). Repression at home remains bad. In its backyard, Iran has bought Russian submarines and Chinese missiles to upgrade its offensive capability around the strategic straits of Hormuz, though it is no match for the US fleet, the vanguard of America's policy of "dual containment". Heavy US hints of Iranian,



inspired subversion in Gulf abetments are not believed locally and evidence is again hard to pin down. Iran's objections to the Middle East peace process are a matter of principle though it is not clear whether it has thought through the implications of Yasser Arafat's abandonment of armed struggle: the horrific suicide bombings that killed 60 Israelis in 10 days in February and March were described by the country's official news agency, Iran, as "divine retribution" — a label which hardly squared with President Rafsanjani's insistence that he condemns terrorism. The case against Iran is easy to state but hard to prove: the US and Britain point to its links with Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian fundamentalist groups responsible for the bombings. Israel has been vocal too, though it was striking that John Major was alone in join-

ing Shimon Peres in singling out Tehran at the Sharm el-Sheikh "peace-makers' summit". Intelligence and politics are closely linked. Guarding the holy grail of "sources and methods" is said to be more important than the public exposure of the smoking gun or the incriminating bank transfer: for who doubts that the Iranians are up to no good?

THE US and Britain put a lot of effort into monitoring Iran — Britain's GCHQ eavesdropping centre advertised for Farsi speakers recently — and there is grudging respect for the professionalism of its clandestine networks. "They've tripped up more than usual recently," said one well-placed official, "but it's not surprising that water has fallen from the top of the iceberg because the iceberg is very large."

It is common ground that Iran supports Hizbullah guerrillas in south Lebanon (even as its ally Syria is trying to rein them in), and played a role in two devastating car bomb attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets in Argentina. And there is wide agreement on official Iranian involvement in the killings of dissidents in Europe — and not only in the Berlin assassination that are upsetting Mr. Fallahian's Nowruz holiday. In recent years Bosnia has been added to America's evil-empire style catalogue of complaints, though ironically Iran was one of the few countries that agreed with the US call to lift the arms embargo. Washington has protested vigorously about mujahedin fighters and trumpeted the recent exposure of Iranian advisers at a Bosnian government dirty-tricks centre, complete with booby-trapped toys.

The US has done much to isolate Iran: Japan and Germany have been urged to withhold badly-needed credit and, having banned US trade and investment in Iran last year, Congress is now working on legislation that would penalise foreign companies that do more than \$40 million in the country's vital oil and gas industry. In an election year in the US — and, perhaps more critically, in Israel — allied interests may not stop Washington making stronger action now that the link has been established between Iran and terrorism targeting Israel. "I am sorry if we offend our friends," sneered one democratic Representative, "but the sight of arms and legs strewn over the streets of Tel Aviv offends me."

Yet experience teaches that unilateral trade sanctions are not effective and, more seriously, can also undermine UN-anthorised multilateral ones. Or, as the former US Defence Secretary, Dick Cheney, described the Congressional approach last week: "We are going to shut you out and close the door and turn off the relationship and that will force you to do what we want you to do." Russia, meanwhile, is broadening its own relations with Iran.

Some experts argue pursuing Iran in this way could end up exacerbating its real importance. It reinforces the impression that obsession is no way to run a foreign policy, especially for a man of legendary caution like Warren Christopher. "There are plenty of bad things to say about Iran without making things up," argues Gary Sick, adviser on Iran to the Carter administration.

Across the Atlantic there is sympathy for such criticism. Despite Bonn's belated action against the George Smiley of the Islamic Republic, European Union members are divided over whether to continue their "critical dialogue" with Tehran. Those who do a lot of business say it should go on. Smaller countries which do not have their doubts. Britain, where the Foreign Office offers seems to elevate tactics to the level of principle, is on the fence.

Testing times lie ahead for Iran's relationship with Europe: within the next two weeks an EU delegation is to visit Tehran to try to extract the sort of unequivocal condemnation of terrorism the US would like but no one else really expects, while in Washington officials are to meet to discuss intelligence-sharing and other practical moves. Britain has long and frustrating experience of trying to annul the Rushdie fatwa and seriously doubts that attempts to browbeat Iran will work. Evasion and obfuscation seem far more likely than clear-cut answers from a state where the word terrorism is so often qualified by inverted commas, where one man's suicide-bomber is another man's martyr, and divine retribution really works.

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10 OBITUARIES

William Hutchinson Murray

Monarch of the crags

WILLIAM Hutchinson Murray, who has died aged 83, will be remembered, for as long as literate mountaineers survive to appreciate his work on what are generally accepted as the finest books ever written about our British hills...

Out of his intense exploratory activity one of mountain writing's enduring texts was forged

The way in which, out of this intense bout of exploratory activity, there was forged one of the enduring texts of mountain writing is itself a romantic saga...



Beyond the world... W H Murray climbing the Granite Ridge of Dumagiri Peak in the Himalayas. PHOTOGRAPH BY WEN

sages of dramatic action which owes an obvious debt to Wordsworth and, before him, to the empiricist Hartley. But it is still uniquely Murray's own work. Here and there, the writer reaches overtly formulated philosophical status...

heart give nourishment and life to the will and mind, which, all acting in unison, raise consciousness to a new state of awareness.

mora in 1950, and as deputy leader on Eric Shipton's 1951 Everest Reconnaissance. On the latter, Murray failed to acclimatise at altitude, and was not included in the 1953 Everest team.

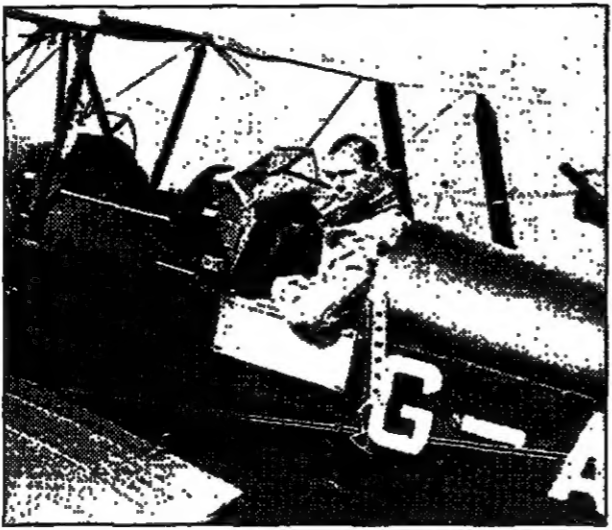
only occasionally for meetings of the Scottish mountaineering council (of which paleolithic organisation he served an inevitable term as president), or more rarely for literary gatherings south of the borders.

Stuart Wilson-MacDonald

First jets over the Atlantic

IN THE summer of 1948, six De Havilland Vampire single-engine jet fighters of No 54 Squadron, the Royal Air Force took off from Stornoway in the Western Isles. Their first destination was Iceland.

School, a patient of his father, Francis Patmore, son of the poet Coventry Patmore, took the young MacDonald to help him run his Kenyan coffee plantation. The business failed, he returned to Britain in 1931, joined the RAF...



Taking off... Wilson-MacDonald on his first solo flight

he was over occupied northern France, he swiftly reconverted the flying instructor but with the outbreak of war he moved into a frontline combat role. In late August 1940 MacDonald was given command of No 213 squadron, flying Hurricanes from Exeter. Within a week the squadron had been moved to Tangmere in Sussex as the Battle of Britain reached its climax...

After a call from an RN destroyer to suppress German mines on an Adriatic island off Dubrovnik, MacDonald sent his wing back to Italy and went 'private raiding', to enable the destroyer to silence the gun emplacement. On another occasion he and the CO of 213 Squadron sank a German E-Boat. In 1945 MacDonald was awarded the DSO and took up a permanent commission.

Claude Bourdet

Testifying to free France

IF CLAUDE Bourdet, had been a hesitant Resistance fighter, his year spent in Buchenwald concentration camp would have been an evermore as one of France's most determined human rights activists.

Captured soon after the German invasion of France in 1940, he escaped and joined the Resistance two years later, co-founding the underground newspaper, Combat. He became its editor after his colleague, Henri Frenay, left for London.



From the heart... Bourdet

French president's suspicion of United States' hegemony in post-war Europe. Between 1956 and 1962 he backed Algerian independence and was a strong critic of French police and army action there.

Jackdaw



Taking the cake

THE "LAUNCH" — the word was new to publishing — of Jacqueline Susann's Love Machine took place in the early spring of 1969, and was accompanied by incredible ballyhoo...

Jackie had been around stars long enough to know that that wasn't enough. If these people were going to sell her book, she loved them, and she would make them love her.

cluded a lot of flambe dishes, which Jackie liked because of their drama. Great bursts of flame lit up the room — occasionally accompanied by the smell of singed hair — illuminating, as if in hell, Jackie as she made her way from table to table.

cake moved slowly toward Jackie, but just before it reached her, a bystander, overcome by one too many Love Machine cocktails, slipped and fell into the cake.

our too-many airports, and sleeping her to me when she wore that sweater, and the press of travellers breaking around us, and then she got on the plane.

and tie in that contest one will likely but not necessarily lose to the maitre d'... The black beret, the black turtle-neck, and... I am hard-pressed to think of the perfect third to round out the company.

complete Martin Eden. Daniel Farnet gets all hot under the collar over his black cashmere sweater in US Esquire.

Does this sound a bit harsh? Maybe it is, but I think a certain degree of caustic language may be required to cut through what seems to be the extremely gentle and euphemistic treatment the mainstream media have been giving Mr Dole's near-catastrophic denouement...

Jackdaw

Jackdaw

Jackdaw

Jackdaw

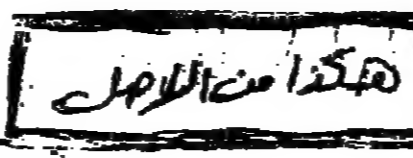
Jackdaw

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Jackdaw



Fallout from BSE may spur Westminster to confront the imminent revenue crisis

Something is rotten in the fiscal fantasy state



Will Hutton

RARELY can the ideology of ruling "burdensome" rules on business and Treasury chieftains as a route to economic and social well-being have been so savagely exposed as being false rationale as in the BSE crisis. A thorough approach to policing abattoirs and the health of cattle herds and the threat to public health and the beef industry alike would have been much reduced. The consequences across the board, from the trading prospects of beef producers to the financial position of the British government, will reverberate for years to come. Indeed it is here, as estimates of the potential bill climb as high as £12 billion, that the first more generalised impact will be felt.

at 6.25 per cent this year, when in fact it will grow at below 5 per cent, a shortfall in cash terms of some £10 billion. But the Government would not have claimed the whole of the missing £10 billion in taxation: taxes only represent around 36 per cent of GDP. Something is going seriously wrong. The implications are sobering. Even if growth now picks up to meet the Government's over-optimistic targets, the combination of last November's tax cuts and the same pattern of disappearing receipts will mean that next year's PSBR can only fall marginally below £30 billion, even before the impact of BSE. Include BSE, and the outlook for both the next two financial years is grim. Yet the pace of growth and flow of receipts are only two parts of the rather complex equation that determines any government's financial position. The third is the growth of public spending — or rather lack of it. Even the realisation is dawning that the spending targets over the next three years, falling by 0.9 per cent next year and rising less than 1.0 per cent for the following two years, are probably unattainable. A ready civil service redundancies extend across the whole public service sector. One fifth of NHS trusts are financially unstable. Universities are creeping at the seams. Many local authorities are having to attack their education budgets, and compulsory competitive tendering has gone as far as it can in cutting any fat. Swinging reductions in capital programmes will only be avoided if the private finance initiative shows some life. A significant overrun in government spending is almost certain, in which case the chances of the PSBR falling below £30 billion next year are further reduced. Although this means that the Chancellor has almost no room for any tax cuts this November, even repeating this year's token £3 billion will depend on manipulating the numbers. But it also points up the fact that the structural weakening in the pattern of tax receipts confronts an incoming government with some hard financial choices. For what has driven the overshoot has not yet been public spending, where de-



partmental spending has only marginally overshot the projections of 18 months ago. Nor has it been a notable weakening in income tax receipts, whose reduction can largely be attributed to lower growth. There are two chief culprits: corporation tax, where the yield is £2.5 billion down, despite profits growing faster than expected and, most marked of all, VAT. Eighteen months ago the Government projected a VAT receipts of £49 billion for this year. Now it looks as though the yield could be lower than £43 billion. THE Treasury is so concerned about the deficit that it has set up a joint investigation with Customs and Excise. Part of the story is obviously the continuing low rate of growth in consumer spending, but the principal driver is the increasing use of equal society: the spending of the bottom 30 or 40 per cent is skewed towards VAT-exempt goods and the cash and informal economy where the VAT inspector's remit does not extend. The Government is also pursuing a policy of reducing manpower reductions in Customs and Excise weakening its tax policing powers and the picture is complete. Nor is it likely to change, any more than the growing adeptness of companies in

avoiding and evading tax. Multinationals' facility in reporting profits only in low-tax countries or tax havens grows annually. In sum, growth yields ever less taxation revenue. An incoming government has to remedy this either by raising taxes or reducing spending — the kind of unpalatable choice the next 12 months of political debate is unlikely to illuminate. The rise in tax over a five-year period to increase the tax yield, move borrowing on to a sustainable trend and allow the growth in public spending need not be great — 1 to 1.5 per cent of GDP would be sufficient, leaving Britain a low-tax country — but it is an imperative. Nor need it involve a politically damaging rise in the standard rate of income tax. There are avenues to target, ranging from environmental taxes, the North Sea, stamp duty, tightening up on capital gains and inheritance tax, extending the VAT base to include, for example, private education, tightening the collection, creating Industrial Capacity, published this week. But the mainstream politi-

cal agenda remains dominated by fantasy promises of tax and spending cuts, with the hope that that a rise in consumption will keep the recovery moving in a non-inflationary way. It won't. The public sector languishes, the tax take is too low, and neither sustainable recovery nor more stimulative economic policies are possible unless the criteria governing investment are substantially reformed. It defames the discourse of British democratic debate that the country's real economic options are not debated. Perhaps one good byproduct of BSE is that it will force the collection. Creating Industrial Capacity, published this week. But the mainstream politi-

cal agenda remains dominated by fantasy promises of tax and spending cuts, with the hope that that a rise in consumption will keep the recovery moving in a non-inflationary way. It won't. The public sector languishes, the tax take is too low, and neither sustainable recovery nor more stimulative economic policies are possible unless the criteria governing investment are substantially reformed. It defames the discourse of British democratic debate that the country's real economic options are not debated. Perhaps one good byproduct of BSE is that it will force the collection. Creating Industrial Capacity, published this week. But the mainstream politi-

Why Clinton is still gripped by insecurity

Worldview Edward Balls

BILL CLINTON will still be in the White House this time next year, or so the Washington consensus believes. The President is riding high in the polls and the economy does not seem likely to go sour. The third-longest expansion since 1945 has seen unemployment fall from 7.7 per cent to 5.5 per cent since 1992 and the creation of 8.4 million jobs. Yet there is no sign of self-satisfaction in the administration. President Clinton chose not to herald this economic good news in his State of the Union address in January. Instead, the Democrats, led by Labour Secretary Robert Reich, are engaged in fierce debate over how to boost living standards and tackle job security. You've guessed it — the feel-good factor has yet to return in America, too. A "feel very bad" factor is more how US newspapers see the mood.

ONLY 20 per cent of potential Democratic voters work for large corporations, however. Attempting to hamper trade, foreign investment and technological change to protect existing jobs does nothing to help the self-employed, those who have lost their jobs or fear they might be next in line. Which is why the Democratic policy agenda will focus on the insecurity argument not on stopping people losing their jobs but in helping them get the next. A job-creating economy, health-care reform, and education and retraining packages for displaced workers are likely to form the core of the platform. Last week's White House budget proposals included substantial expansion of retraining assistance. For, as Clinton campaign guru James Carville argues in a new book, We're Right, They're Wrong: A Handbook for Spirited Progressives, education is the fault-line splitting winners and losers. Mr Carville's book offers a confident version of this New Democrat case, and a celebration of the demise of Newt Gingrich's now-right Congress. Education is the name of the economic chapter of his new book? "It's still the economy, stupid."

Revaluing the boffins

Briefing Richard Thomas

SCIENTISTS rarely enjoy the sort of media exposure they have had over the past week. Unfortunately for the organisers of National Science Week, which links up the public with the scientists who have had nothing to do with their efforts — and more to do with BSE. The value of science in a national emergency of this kind is clear. We need the white-coated boffins to explain what is going on, and tell us what to do. At other times, the £1.3 billion a year state support of scientific research is subject to close, sceptical scrutiny. The Government is increasingly concerned with securing value for money from the boffins and promoting economically "relevant" research. But how do we judge science's value? Seeking answers, the Treasury commissioned a research project from the Science Policy Research Unit (Spru) on the economic impact of science. The final version, to be delivered this week, concludes scientific research does help the economy, in the following ways:

• basic science provides new instruments and techniques, which can find commercial application; • former scientists often join industry, providing firms with a range of skills; • a national science base provides an "entry ticket" to worldwide expertise; • research can produce related spin-off companies. The problem is quantifying the benefits. Edward Mansfield at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the most important figures in this field, adopts a direct approach to the problem. His latest research, published in the Review of Economics and Statistics, simply asks firms about their reliance on scientific research. He surveyed 76 US firms, in the fields of electronics, information-processing, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, petroleum, metals and instruments. The respon-

Monetarism brief like a pair of flares

Comment

MONETARISM is back. Not everyone buys it but commentators, including David Walton in last Monday's Guardian, are worried enough about supposed inflation consequences of the latest numbers to resurrect the economic equivalence of flared trousers. Unfortunately, there is more to inflation than the growth of the money supply. While monetarists argue which type of money (broad, narrow etc) to follow, the issue whether any such indicator is reliable. Without stable relationships between the money supply and the real economy, monetarism cannot work and advanced economies do not encourage such relationships. Financial structures change constantly, but it is impossible to know the consequences in advance. A given increase in the money supply can have different consequences at different times, rendering the numbers useless. But the real economy rarely lies and evidence suggests the inflation outlook is benign with scope for more ½ per cent interest rate cuts and 5 per cent by Christmas a realistic target. Monetarism may be back but not for long. Ken Shepherdson is a senior UK economist with HSBC Markets

Indicators

Table with 4 columns: Country, Indicator, Value, Date. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, USA.

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THURSDAY — IFA Bundles Meeting. FRIDAY — US: FOMC meeting (Mar). UK: Balance of Payments (Q4). WEDNESDAY — UK: Capital expenditure (Q4-Rev). US: Consumer confidence (Mar).

Tourist rates — bank sells. Australia 1.915, Austria 15.37, Belgium 45.20, Canada 2.04, Cyprus 0.6875, Denmark 8.54, Finland 7.07, France 7.53, Germany 2.20, Greece 303.00, Hong Kong 11.66, India 53.42, Ireland 0.95, Israel 4.75, Italy 2.90, Malta 0.5425, Netherlands 2.47, New Zealand 2.18, Norway 9.22, Portugal 68.00, Saudi Arabia 5.78, Singapore 2.11, South Africa 5.82, Spain 165.00, Sweden 10.18, Switzerland 1.77, Taiwan 90.900, UK 1.50.

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Racing

Cigar lights up in track work-out

Chris Hawkins on the draw for the Dubai World Cup

THE American champion Cigar, drawn towards the outside at number eight in a field of 11 for Wednesday's Dubai World Cup, moved in fluent style when ridden by Jerry Bailey in a four furlong work-out under the hood-lights of the Nad Al Sheba racecourse last night.

Cigar cantered with his pony Snowball, ridden by Bill Mott the trainer, for five furlongs before Bailey led him to go on a pace covering the final half-mile in 49.1 seconds - an impressive time.

A six-hour downpour on Friday had left the inside of the sand track mushy, but although the ground dries quickly the interior of the half-mile seems likely to be the best course.

Bailey, like so many Americans, can talk as good a race as he rides and says he is more afraid of the elements than the opposition in the \$4 million race billed as the world's mile and a quarter championship.

"The only thing that shakes my confidence is that this is horseracing and anything can happen, but if Cigar is the mottled Cigar, no doubt," said Bailey. "He'd be mad at me if I didn't have the utmost confidence in him."

Cigar will not be allowed to run on Laix (a drug which stops horses breaking blood vessels) but after his victory at Belmont when beaten pointlessly by Cigar in the Breeders' Cup last autumn, but he has won four times on the sand here and, according

to the Godolphin manager Simon Crisford, is "a good now as he has ever been in his life."

Pentire and Needle Gun represent Britain. The former has been here for over a month and started his preparation in January. His great asset is his turn of foot, but while his trainer, Geoff Wragg, has been saying privately that his colt will "pick off the big American brute" he fought shy of such fighting talk in public yesterday.

Needle Gun, drawn 10, is a 100-1 shot with Hill's Clive Brittain, his trainer, is used to being the underdog in big international events. He has won a few of them, however, notably the Japan Cup with Jupiter Island and the Breeders' Cup with Pebbles, but Needle Gun, who will be ridden by Brett Doyle instead of Mick Kinane, has won only two of 21 races and looks well outclassed.

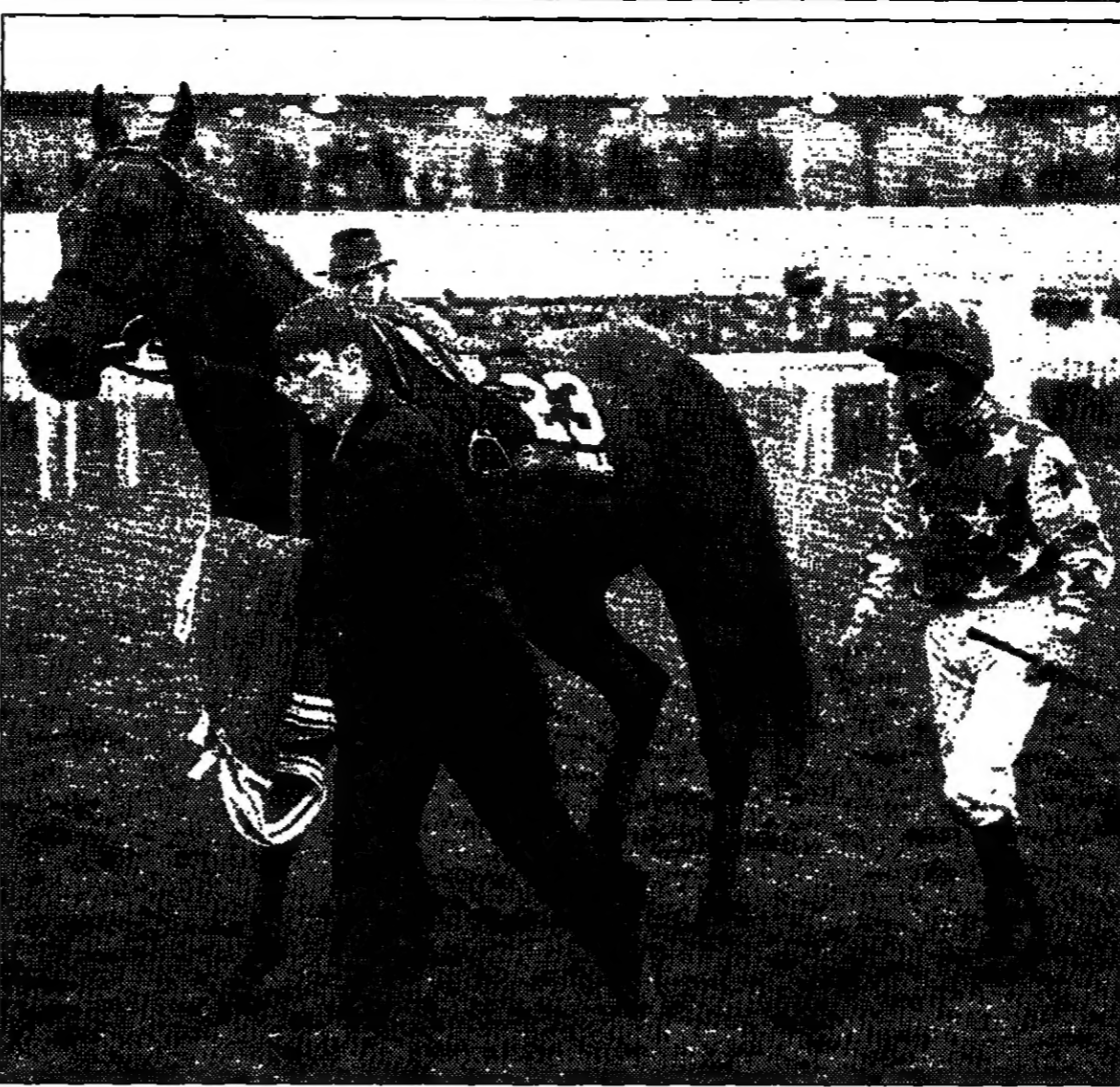
This is a very high class race. Between them the 11 runners have won 81 races and over \$15 million. The average international rating is 121.5 and according to Geoffrey Gibbs, the British Horseracing Board's senior handicapper, this makes it the hottest race ever run.

Frankie Dettori rides Hailing, while Pat Eddery is on Larrocha. This filly was formerly trained by Looze O'Connell, but is now based in Dubai and represents the United Arab Emirates.

Larrocha, drawn three, was last to a mile and a half over the course in February, but that seems to be her distance rather than 10 furlongs.

One of the most impressive workers on the track last night was the Australian horse Danewin, who clocked a fast time. He will be ridden by Damien Oliver, who is only 23 but has already won the Melbourne Cup and three Flemington Cups and is a rider of the highest order. The 11 runners are:

Hailing, a member of the Godolphin team, could not handle the sloppy dirt at Belmont when beaten pointlessly by Cigar in the Breeders' Cup last autumn, but he has won four times on the sand here and, according



Lame excuse... Richard Quinn takes his weight off Sharp Prospect, who pulled a muscle in Saturday's Lincoln. PHOTO: JIM WILSON

Backers on the sharp end again

BACKERS reeling from a series of beaten favourites at the Cheltenham Festival had a sinking feeling of déjà vu after the first big handicap of the Flat season, the William Hill Lincoln, at Doncaster on Saturday.

In ground conditions more suitable for three-mile chasers, Dane O'Neill nudged home the 32-1 shot Stone Ridge just as Richard Quinn was pulling up Sharp Prospect, the 7-1 favourite, who finished lame.

Richard Hamon, trainer of Stone Ridge, had been concerned that the testing ground would be unsuitable for the winner. "I just didn't know whether he'd like it and I

certainly wasn't confident. He hadn't been working well," he said. Sharp Prospect's trainer, Reg Akehurst, was not inclined to blame the abnormally gneupet going, but yesterday explained the reasons behind the favourite's poor running.

"Richard Quinn said the horse lost his action completely at the point where the round course joins the straight mile. "The knee which he damaged last season is all right, but he pulled a muscle in his back. That should respond to treatment and I don't see him being out of action for too long," he said.

At present the going for Saturday's Martell Grand National is on the soft side, but with no more rain forecast before the Aintree

meeting gets under way on Thursday, conditions are unlikely to be too testing. Rough Quest, runner-up in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, was yesterday confirmed a definite Grand National starter by his trainer, Terry Casary.

Predictably, though, the best backed horse over the weekend was Superior Finish following the booking of Richard Dunwoody for Jenny Fittman's runner.

Superior Finish, who suggested Peter Nicholls at the 10th fence in last year's race, was slashed from 14-1 to 10-1 by Coral and Ladbrokes.

Simon Barrie was yesterday hopeful that Dean Dowd will recover from injury in time to run at Aintree. "I was happy with his latest work. He was really sorry for himself last

Friday, but seems in good form now. A final decision will be made after his last schooling session on Thursday morning. Whether he runs will depend on how he jumps then," said the trainer.

Paul Carberry is likely to partner Tartan Tyrant, whose regular rider Tony Dobbin dislocated his left shoulder in a fall at Kelso last Friday.

It is the second bad injury this season for Dobbin. He hurt his right shoulder last November, which led to his losing the ride on the subsequent King George VI Chase winner One Man.

Milneholme, winner of the National two years ago, is not certain to line up, but his trainer, Martin Pipe, could still have three runners - Chatham, Encore Un Peu and Riverside Boy.

Sport in brief

Front-runner Riley stays a step ahead

WAYNE RILEY'S conviction that he is on the verge of becoming a prolific winner on the European golf tour carried him to a hard-fought victory in the Portuguese Open yesterday, writes Michael Britton in Lisbon. The Australian, who had mastered Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie to capture the Scottish Open last summer, this time withstood the combined efforts of England's Martin Gates and Mark Davis after a ferocious thunderstorm interrupted the final round for 3 1/2 hours.

Riley had set out with a two-stroke advantage and he turned for home three ahead after holing from 15 feet for an eagle three at the 9th. When he birdied the long 10th only the margin of his victory seemed in doubt. But there were unexpected alarms in the closing stages, notably when his under-bit approach to the 12th spun back off the green and his pitch to the long 18th ended woefully short. Gates, still seeking his first tour victory, then birdied the 14th and 15th, and when Riley overshot the short 16th green the Briton was presented with a golden opportunity to draw level. But from only two feet he completely missed the hole and his three putts ended his challenge.

Up ahead, Davis had eagled the 10th from 25 feet and added birdies at the 12th and 17th. Another birdie at the last would have set Riley a challenging target but the Essex golfer got ahead of his six-iron approach to the final green and pushed it into a plugged lie in a greenside bunker. He failed to make par, leaving Riley to stride home unopposed.

Super franchise for Wasps

DURHAM WASPS, despite having only a tenancy agreement to play at Sunderland, have been awarded one of seven territorially protected franchises by the Ice Hockey Superleague Limited for the new competition starting in September, which means that Newcastle Warriors, based at the recently opened 6,000-seat Newcastle Arena, have been excluded from any future involvement in the new league, writes Vic Batchelder.

Sir John Hall, the owner of Durham Wasps - called Newcastle Wasps by the IHSL - has been made president of the new competition. The other franchisees go to the Premier Division clubs from Basingstoke, Cardiff and Sheffield, along with Bracknell, Guildford and Manchester from Division One.

Gustafsson tops the form

MAGNUS GUSTAFSSON upset the form book and a partisan Russian crowd by beating tennis's world No. 7 Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-2, 7-4 in the final of the St Petersburg Open. The 26-year-old Swede, ranked 70th, broke the Russian's serve twice in the first set. Kafelnikov gave away six double faults, including two in the second-set tie-break, which he lost 7-4.

Azharuddin keeps captaincy

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN has retained his place as India's cricket captain for next month's Sharjah Cup and a limited-overs tournament in Singapore. Last September the selectors chose the former Derbyshire batsman as captain for a year but his position was in doubt when he was heavily criticised for his handling of the team in their World Cup semi-final defeat by Sri Lanka.

Stunning net profit

MIDDLESEX's Tracy Miller scored an amazing 33 goals from 39 attempts as she led England's netball team to a comfortable 50-33 victory and the Home International Series trophy at the Buryan Centre in Bedford. Wales have beaten their old rivals only once in 55 encounters.

Doyle presidency backed

MEMBERS of the British Cycling Federation have backed their president Tony Doyle. The former world champion, elected in December after an acrimonious campaign, survived by 58 votes to 17 a proposal from the board of directors to cancel his appointment at an emergency national council meeting in Manchester. But counter-proposals demanding the resignations of three board members were also defeated by varying margins.

Folkestone with form for the Jackpot races

1.30 Antares
2.30 LEOG (imp)
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Advertisement for 'Smith's new breed' featuring a large image of a horse and the text 'Smith's new breed large into fine'.

Advertisement for 'Rain check' featuring 'ALDERBROOK will only run in Saturday's Martell Aintree Hurdle if the ground is 'softish', said Kim Bailey yesterday. 'He's fine and did a nice piece of weekend work', said the Lambourn trainer of his disposed champion hurdler. 'But we'll need rain if he's going to run.'

Advertisement for 'RACELINE' featuring a grid of numbers and the text '0930 168+ COMMENTARY'.

14 SPORTS NEWS

SOCCER: FERGUSON'S MEN TIRE BUT STILL MOVE THREE POINTS AHEAD OF TROUBLED NEWCASTLE

Premiership: Manchester United 1, Tottenham Hotspur 0

United again thank Cantona

Cynthia Bateman

MANCHESTER United secured the three points that moved them a short head in front of Newcastle, but this was a pretty tired pony by the time the finishing line was crossed.

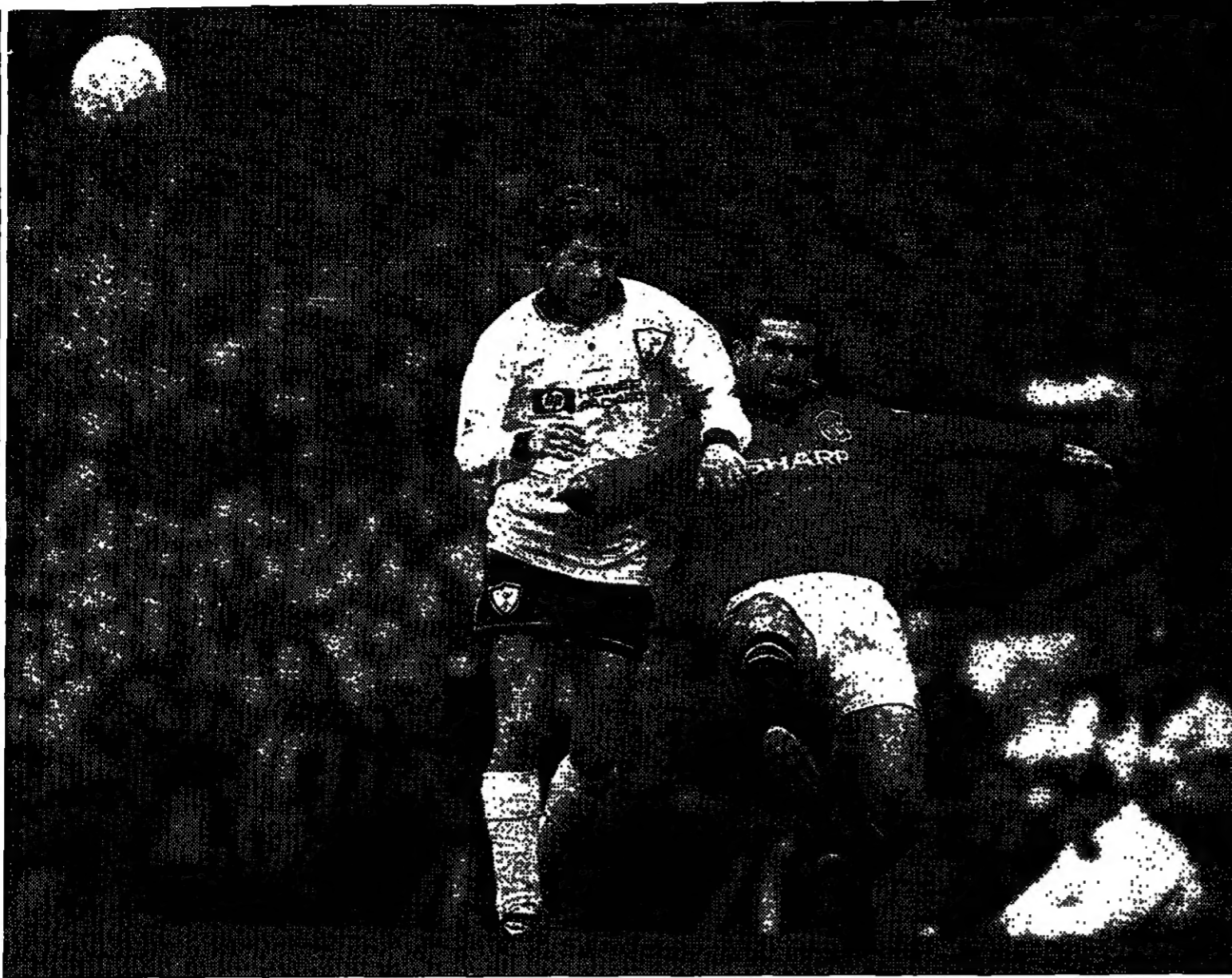
Compared with the speed and flair against Arsenal on Wednesday, this was a leaden-footed United. "It has been a big week for us, and we showed a few nerves among the younger players.

But Eric Cantona is an inspiration. I get tired of saying how magnificent he is," said Alex Ferguson.

Cantona, with his fifth goal in five games — goals that have earned United 10 points from a possible 12 — rescued them with his strike five minutes into the second half.

Until then it had not looked as though it was going to be United's day. The first warning that maybe they had got out of bed the wrong side came with Schmeichel's miscued clearance in the opening seconds.

It did not take a naturally aggressive Tottenham long to realise that they would not have to work any harder than usual to catch out United, and the first half-hour belonged to them.



Weight on Cantona... United's scorer tries to turn provider, scooping the ball into the middle despite Austin's attentions

found Armstrong chasing it. Fortunately for United the striker failed to chip the advancing Schmeichel.

Cole, with whom Ferguson kept faith despite the fact that Schmeichel, on the bench, has scored more goals in half as many appearances, looked lively in the first half and was perfectly placed when Giggs crossed. But the £7 million striker produced a weak shot

straight at Walker, who was rarely troubled thereafter. Ferguson appeared to take advantage of Butt's treatment on the sidelines to whisper some instructions in the midfielder's ear, for shortly afterwards Phil Neville moved to right-back, with Sharpe and Glaze taking over the left flank.

"Look who's behind you" pantomime warning. By the time Spurs did, Cantona was through. His left-foot, low drive beat the diving Walker to finish in the right-hand corner.

Gerry Francis said words of "wing decisions had cost his team the game, particularly when, as television proved, Spurs should have had a corner just before Can-

Everton 2, Wimbledon 4

Kinnear's men at a canter

Ian Ross

THE youngest in the Goodison Park foyer was anxious to complete his whistle-stop tour of Everton's ground by having the manager, Joe Royle, sign his autograph book.

"Best leave it: Joe is probably still shouting at his players," came the reply.

Actually he was not. He had already berated his team for their appalling sloppiness, declared himself to be "puzzled" during an understandably brief news conference, and headed for either the bar or the drawing board.

Royle believes his team can qualify for next season's UEFA Cup; his players would seem

to disagree. Wimbledon's need was the greater and, although they trailed with 39 minutes of a quite wretched match still to run, they won by a distance to move smartly clear of those thrashing about at the foot of the table.

"This is a fantastic result for us and I think it will set us up to be still playing in the Premier League for another season," said an exuberant Joe Kinnear.

Quite right, too. Having removed the menace from their football Wimbledon, believe it or not, are now eminently watchable.

Everton were awful: their defence would not have stopped a sneeze, and once Ferguson's effectiveness had been eroded by fatigue they lacked the collective enthusiasm to chase lost causes.

Ferdinand gets the PFA vote

THE Newcastle United striker Les Ferdinand was last night voted Player of the Year by his fellow professionals. He was presented with his PFA award at a special gala dinner in London after scoring 26 goals in 36 games this season.

He topped the poll ahead of last year's winner, Alan Shearer of Blackburn Rovers, who has scored 34 in 44 games including five hat-tricks.

Liverpool's striker Robbie Fowler was voted Young Player of the Year for the second successive season.



Kinnear... delighted

The irony is they could have won, once headed goals by Craig Short and Andrei Kanchelskis had erased the memory of Marcus Gayle's early strike.

Even after the substitute Stewart Castledine had swept in the equaliser, Wimbledon's hesitancy and lack of ambition seemed likely to be their undoing.

The game was there for the taking, a theory that Kinnear's men subscribed to only after goals by Andy Clarke and Jon Goodman, in the dying minutes, had reduced Everton to rubble.

At the final whistle the Everton crowd stood to applaud Wimbledon as they left the pitch. What next? Acceptance? Surely not.

SCORERS: Everton Short (31 min), Kanchelskis (61), Wimbledon Gayle (12), Castledine (64), Clarke (86), Goodman (88)

Everton: Southall, Holliger, Watson, Short, Minchillo, Kanchelskis, Horne, Sibrell (Pittman, h-t), Linpar, Stuart (Amokachi, 58), Ferguson.

Chelsea 1, Queens Park Rangers 1

Time and tide running against Wilkins' team

Richard Williams

DESPERATE to get his side out of trouble, Ray Wilkins had planned to play at Stamford Bridge, which would have made a poignant sight. It is 21 years since, as an astonishingly mature teenager, he captained a Chelsea team that stepped out of the old First Division, bringing down the curtain on the King's Road era.

A couple of years later he took them back up again, before packing his bags for Old Trafford, St. Siro, and other destinations.

Returning to the Bridge on Saturday at the helm of another team faced with the drop, Wilkins told us that only a calf-muscle strain had kept him fretting on the sidelines. Instead QPR's 39-year-old player-manager was forced to watch as, thanks to Bolton's victory, his team fell to the bottom despite taking a point against his old club.

And however appealing the thought, it is probably too late for him to take a significant role in a match such as this, played at high pace and for high stakes.

Wilkins confirmed that he would not be adding other fresh legs to the squad before Thursday's transfer deadline, Rangers having only six Pre-

mier league games remaining. His gut feeling was that the existing squad would do the job. "The last two performances, against Manchester United and Chelsea, gave me a lot of encouragement. In normal circumstances they would have been very good results. But the players are apprehensive, and when apprehension creeps into the minds of young players it helps to tire them during a game. And when they get tired they lose concentration."

"My players are mostly young men, and it's been a tough season for them, so we're seeing some lapses of concentration."

One of those lapses, in central defence, led to Chelsea taking the lead in the eighth minute, through Spencer's simple headed goal from Wise's right-wing cross. The visitors wobbled but refused to fall, and 11 minutes later Barker crashed in a drive after Sinclair had crossed to Dichio, who knocked the ball back into Barker's path.

Thereafter the best chances were spurned by Chelsea, notably an 80th-minute cross by Gullit to Furlong, who cemented his reputation as the Andy Cole of Stamford Bridge by slipping as he attempted to shoot from point-blank range.

Despite being named in the

early betting for the Venables succession, Wilkins has not yet begun to prove himself as a coach. The purchase of Haisley, who came on for the last dozen minutes to form a twin-tower partnership with Dichio, always looked like an expensive mistake. Whatever Haisley's virtues, anyone less like a natural QPR player could hardly be imagined.

Hodde's team did not produce one of their more exalted performances of the Gullit era, but the players could be excused for having left half their energy on the pitch in last Wednesday's FA Cup match and for having half an eye on next weekend's semi-final. A sore calf cost them the second-half presence of Hughes, who also departed with a booking for aiming an idiotically meaningless kick at Barker. That takes him over the 40-point limit and could cost him a place in the Wembley line-up, if Chelsea get that far, but he will be working hard to regain his fitness in time to prove a point to United on Sunday.

SCORERS: Chelsea Spencer (8 min), QPR Barker (19)

Chelsea: Hitchcock, Patrascu, Lee (Johnson, 60 min), Dugberry, Clarke, Phelan, Suray, Wise, Gullit, Spencer (Pescosci, 58), Hughes (Furlong, 58), Gary Somers, Bardley, McDonald, Maddie (Ready, h-t), Brevint, Yates (Brazier, 88), Barker, Sinclair, Insey, Larian (Peady, 87), Dichio.

Referee: M. Hooper (Birmingham)

Arsenal 2, Newcastle United 0

Magpies stay off balance

Commentary

David Lacey

WALKING on water was always a tricky business. For months Newcastle United have put their faith in the Messianic management of Kevin Keegan. Now, if they are going to win the championship, they will have to start learning to swim against the tide.

At Highbury Newcastle floundered. They conceded a goal in three minutes, another after 17, and from then on either missed the target, hit its outer edges or drove fine saves from Seaman.

Manchester United went top again on their day off. Two months earlier Newcastle had led the Premiership by 12 points. Their next game is at Liverpool. No wonder Keegan wore the look of a man watching his creation dissolve before his eyes. As eloquent in defeat as he has been in victory, the Newcastle manager filled reporters' notebooks and mini-tapes with a lucid assessment of what had gone wrong. Basically his argument was that half the team had not performed.

"You can carry one or two players," Keegan declared. "You can't carry five or six." Ferdinand, Ginola, Asprilla, Beardsley, Lee... none of the big names was spared.

"When we play like that," he said, "the players leave themselves open to criticism. I'm not going to defend it. I'm there to be shot at as well."

Verbally at least, Keegan performed several times better than his team. As he left the interview room at Highbury there was even a ripple of applause. However, his statements did not quite add up, for it was not so much a question of individuals performing badly as players again struggling to make sense of a fresh script and new stage directions. The balance of Newcastle's team is severely disturbed and the only person responsible for that is Keegan himself.

Take Asprilla. By his own lights the Colombian performed well. He set up a series of early chances for Ferdinand and late in the match turned beautifully through the Arsenal defence before beating Seaman with a cross-kick which glanced off the outside of the far post.

Yet Asprilla is a catalyst and, by definition, will not change his way of playing, however much he influences those around him. Unhappily for Newcastle this influence is threatening to outweigh any advantages that his individual skills might bring.

His control is extraordinary. At times the ball appears to be tied to his bootlaces. But to ac-

commodate Asprilla, Beardsley is being withdrawn to a deep position on the right, stretching to breaking point his contact with Ferdinand.

In the second half Beardsley moved more to the middle and Asprilla went wide. But the Colombian's natural desire to take on defenders with the ball still meant that Newcastle were not enjoying the consistent crosses that Gillespie was giving them before he was injured, and before Asprilla arrived.

On the left Ginola's ability to glide past opponents was unimpaired but the Frenchman is producing neither the quality of centre nor the accuracy of shot that distinguished his football earlier in the season. As a result all this Ferdinand is no longer enjoying the service that once exploited his prime assets of speed and heading power, and this has surely contributed to his recent loss of scoring form.

Newcastle are, in essence, a push-and-run side. Asprilla is an accomplished dribbler but holds things up. As an old Liverpool player, Keegan should not have forgotten the basic Arsenal philosophy that the more time one man spends on the ball the less a colleague will have to make use of it.

Errors in defence led to this defeat. If anything, the principal difference between the teams lay in the contrasting performance of the full-backs. For Arsenal, Dixon and Winterburn, easily fitting in with Bruce Rioch's switch to three centre-backs, were occasionally outwitted by Ginola or Asprilla but were never exposed as consistently as Barton and Beardsley.

Defending has never been Newcastle's strongest point, and this is part of their charm. But the charm became a curse as Marshall headed Arsenal in front in the third minute, Lingard having performed badly as players again struggling to make sense of a fresh script and new stage directions. The balance of Newcastle's team is severely disturbed and the only person responsible for that is Keegan himself.

Keegan has 10 days to sort out his thoughts for the match at Anfield on Wednesday week. The question of how long Beardsley and Asprilla can continue to play together in attack may occupy his mind.

SCORERS: Arsenal Marshall (3 min), Wright (7)

Arsenal: Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Morgan, Marshall, Winterburn (Fisher, 67), Bergerson, Pat, McParland, Wright (Parsons, 40)

Newcastle: Beardsley; Strick; Barton (Wilson, 55), Albert, Hovey, Beardsley, Beardsley, Lee, Batty, Ginola, Asprilla, Ferdinand; P. Davin (Portman).

O'Neil set to face Australia after Scotland lose six men

Patrick Glenn

IN 24 hours, Celtic's defender Brian O'Neil captured the unpredictability of football by being transformed from a spectator at Motherwell to a probable member of Scotland's team against Australia at Hampden Park on Wednesday.

O'Neil, who has played only four times for his club after 10 months out with knee ligament damage, was summoned by Scotland's manager Craig Brown yesterday as six of the original squad dropped out.

The 23-year-old central defender has been left out of Celtic's last two matches and watched the 0-0 draw with Motherwell on Saturday. But, with Tottenham's Colin Calderwood and Alan McLaren of Rangers among the call-offs, he was drafted in.

The other withdrawals were the striker Duncan Ferguson, midfielder Stuart McCall, goalkeeper Andy Goram and full-back Tosh McKinlay.

O'Neil said: "The game is

all about taking opportunities. If there are doubts about my readiness for international, I may have the chance to find out on Wednesday. But I feel fit enough."

Ferguson's predictable absence makes the Chelsea striker John Spencer a near-certain starter. "He's very hot at the moment," said Brown.

In the title chase, Rangers' 8-2 home win over Falkirk was unimpressive but the result may be deeply significant. Celtic's draw extended the Ibrox side's lead to five points, with six matches remaining.

Paul Gascoigne scored the opening goal — his seventh in his last eight games — and looked the only Rangers player capable of making the telling pass. Erik Bo Andersen gave the home side a two-goal lead and re-established it 11 minutes from time, his first goals for the club.

Another Dane, Morten Wieghorst, could have won the match at Fir Park for Celtic but he headed wide from only five yards.

"The boys done great Brian!"



CONGRATULATIONS TO ASTON VILLA F.C. COCA COLA CUP WINNERS 1996



Soccer

Premiership: Nottingham Forest 1, Liverpool 0

Collymore runs the gauntlet

THE lady with bulging eyes was unimpressed by the police escort which accompanied Liverpool to the City Ground on Saturday. "More like a Fiesta," she hissed before digging deep into her vocabulary to hurl a Judas insult at Stan Collymore.

two wide, two blocked by defenders and two saved. Forest's goal came out of nowhere when James failed to hang on to Pearce's long-range shot. Cooper was first to react, whipping the ball across goal for Stone to ram home. Liverpool should already have been well ahead but, thinking themselves indestructible after 90 games unbeaten, never made full use of ample possession.

The second half brought more urgency and only a questionable decision by Mr Danson denied them an equaliser. Roy Evans, the Forest counterpart Frank Clark agreed: "It wasn't a nice atmosphere but unfortunately that sort of thing happens in football nowadays."

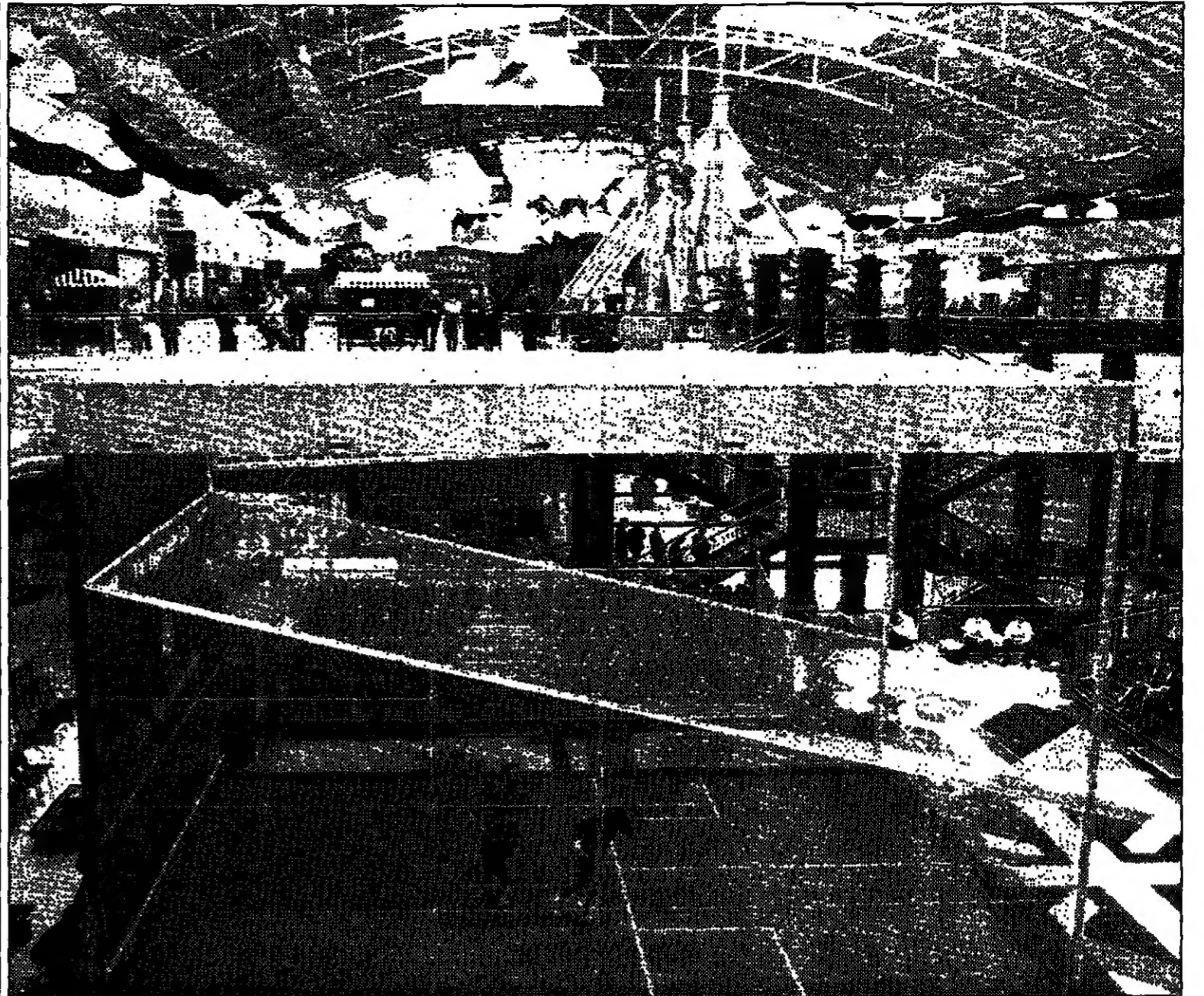
West Ham United 4, Manchester City 2

Hammer blows for City

tough games to make an impact debut against Manchester United, a warning visit to Wimbledon, a relegation scrap against Sheffield Wednesday, a visit to Aston Villa and a final game at home to Liverpool.

City's prospects would have been less daunting had just one thing gone right on Saturday. They failed to clear a corner properly to let in Dowie for the first goal. Rösler then wasted three decent chances before Curle missed a penalty before Kinkadee's twinkle-toed run was ended by Ellis's less sophisticated right foot.

were down to 10 men. Scored, Miklosos fumbling Hiley's defence and giving away a goal. But West Ham's advantage eventually told. Dicks made it 3-1 with a 20-yard blast before Bishop's silky pass and Dan's shimmering skill made it 4-1. Quinn's turn and shot finally produced the quality one City had sought. But too late.



Playing to The Galleria... Field shoppers enjoy the inventive play of the new experimental point-per-rally scoring system

Martin pays price for Harris speed

Richard Jago on some refreshing play and a fine win for the England No. 1



REX HARRIS followed Friday's starting victory over the world champion Jansher Khan by winning the Equitable Life Super Series at The Galleria shopping centre in Hatfield yesterday. It was arguably the best success by a British male since 1972's John Barstrop, the fourth quickly after Martin left the court for three min-

utes with the score at 3-2, after a collision in which the Australian injured an ankle. In the fifth Harris attacked fiercely and for the first time hit through his opponent, winning the decider in only four minutes. "This is the best I have played and I would like to think it is the first of several major titles," said Harris. "I was moving well, probably because I eased off training at the right moment before this event."

Jansher's first PSA Tour defeat for two years and following that on Saturday with victory over his compatriot Mark Chaloner. Though the experimental format produces the most inventive play for years with non-stop attacking, Jansher complained about the point-per-rally first-tine scoring system. He had to be satisfied with third place after a straight games win over the world No. 3 Rodney Eyles but is still strong favourite for the British Open starting next week.

Weekend results

Soccer

COCA-COLA CUP

Final Arsenal 1, Chelsea 1

FA CUP PREMIERSHIP

Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0

ENGLISH LEAGUE

First Division

Sheff Wed 1, Arsenal 1

Sheff Wed 1, Arsenal 1

WELSH SCOTTISH LEAGUES

Welsh League

Cardiff 1, Swansea 0

Cardiff 1, Swansea 0

Rugby Union

Welsh League

Cardiff 1, Swansea 0

Cardiff 1, Swansea 0

Rugby League

National Conference

Wigan 1, Hull 0

Wigan 1, Hull 0

Basketball

British Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Alpine Skiing

British Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Basketball

Towers bite the Bullets

NOT even the Birmingham

NOT even the Birmingham

Real Tennis

World Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Figure Skating

World Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Ice Hockey

British Championship

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Swimming

British Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Table Tennis

World Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Table Tennis

World Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Table Tennis

World Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Table Tennis

World Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Table Tennis

World Championships

Wolves 1, Spurs 0

Vertical text on the left side of the page, possibly a page number or reference.

Advertisement for flag waving supporters, featuring a large number '28' and contact information for a national breakdown.

SportsGuardian

STRIKER SETS UP RECORD-EQUALLING LEAGUE CUP VICTORY

Coca-Cola Cup, final: Aston Villa 3, Leeds United 0

Milosevic leads Villa's final assault

David Lacey at Wembley

THIS season's League Cup was won by a set of full-bodied claret at the expense of some distinctly inferior whites. In the trophy's 36-year history there have been few more distinguished winners than Aston Villa, and even fewer teams so thoroughly beaten as were Leeds United yesterday.

Apart from a brief spell at the start of each half, Brian Little's side were the masters of the occasion. Their victory, the biggest winning margin since Oxford United beat Queens Park Rangers by the same score 10 years ago, in no way flattered them.

Leeds never really recovered from the shock of falling behind to a superb shot from Savo Milosevic midway through the first half. Yet if the big, awkward-looking Serb instigated Villa's triumph, the true inspiration was to be found elsewhere: in Draper's tireless creative influence, for example, which steadily upstaged McAllister; and in Yorke's capacity to find meaningful space in an endless variety of positions.

Leeds were not expected to win, but neither were they expected to lose quite so limply. Had yesterday's guest of honour, Virginia Bottomley, had anything to do with it, Leeds might have been closed at half-time. By then the purpose of their existence was certainly open to question.

Howard Wilkinson, Leeds' manager, tried to present Villa with a mirror-image of themselves but merely succeeded in emphasising the qualities of the real thing. Whatever persuaded him to leave Deane and Broolin on the bench at the start, it did nothing for his team's cause.

The 18-year-old Andy Gray — son of Frank, nephew of Eddie — achieved more in only his fourth full first-team match than did others with infinitely more experience. When McAllister is subdued, as he was yesterday, Leeds are a pedestrian, prosaic side.

Fears of a dour stalemate proved unfounded. Both teams began with five at the back, but Villa have used this formation as an attacking platform all season and it was largely their speed on the break which kept the football open from the start.

Villa were much busier between the penalty areas. Yorke was everywhere, Draper was dominant, Townsend and Taylor were increasingly the masters of Palmer

and Ford. McAllister did make one exceptional 60-yard dash for Leeds but the effect of this was nullified by Speed's poor centre, a moment that rather summed up his team's afternoon.

Gray began confidently, showing good control and outwitting Southgate just past the quarter-hour before curling a shot past the far angle of post and bar, but too little of consequence came through to Yeboah.

The first goal, scored after 20 minutes, stemmed from Leeds' uncertainties in midfield. Townsend intercepted a vague pass from Speed and found Milosevic in a lot of space. Pemberton was the nearest defender but backed off feebly as it turned out. Milosevic took the ball on half a dozen yards and then unleashed a wonderful shot from just outside the penalty arc. Lukic was beaten as much by the ball's flight, which saw it dip in under the bar, as its pace.

Villa always appeared likely winners after that. Their confidence, high at the start, bubbled away even more merrily. The authority at the back of McGrath, Southgate, and Ebiogu with his occasionally inspired passes was absolute.

Gray did begin the second half with a couple of narrow-angle, close-range shots from the left but Leeds' optima was brief. Villa's passing and teamwork were still far superior and they soon increased their lead.

In the 56th minute Draper and Townsend combined to release Wright on the left. The full-back's deep, searching centre to the far post found Radebe facing his own net with Milosevic coming in behind him. Radebe opted for a first-time overhead clearance and the ball came straight out to Taylor, who walloped it back past Lukic.

Villa's third goal, in the penultimate minute, was almost an afterthought. Milosevic gathered a pass from Draper and slipped the ball past Pemberton for Yorke to smother his excellent performance with a firm shot into the roof of the net.

So Villa, the first League Cup winners, have now won five times, equalling Liverpool's record. If they repeat yesterday's performance in next Sunday's FA Cup semi-finals they could be Liverpool's equals at Old Trafford.

Leeds Villa Squad: Ebiogu, McGrath, Southgate, Charles, Taylor, Draper, Townsend, Wright, Yorke, Milosevic, Lukic, Speed, Kelly, Pemberton, Wetherall, Radebe (Striker), Speed, Ford (Deane, 1-0), McAllister, Palmer, Yeboah, Gray.



First blood to Villa... the trusty left foot of Savo Milosevic powers a shot past John Pemberton to put his side a goal up at Wembley yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE MORTON

Wilkinson's team fail to ignite after the fireworks

Jeremy Alexander on a one-sided final that brought a smile to the face of Yorke but left supporters from Yorkshire scowling

YORKE v Yeboah was the move to Wembley, the ticket to Europe. Even now the Premiership clubs view it with contempt in September, consideration in November and commitment only in the new year. For 36 years it has congested the calendar, resisted the League's best en-

deavours to raise its status — the move to Wembley, the ticket to Europe. Even now the Premiership clubs view it with contempt in September, consideration in November and commitment only in the new year. For 36 years it has congested the calendar, resisted the League's best en-

without prestige. Yesterday's effort by the League was to invite the Heritage Secretary. Going by the teams, it would have done better with Overseas Development; going by the prominence of its sponsors, perhaps the Paymaster General. Coca-Cola gave Villa £100,000, Leeds £50,000.

Broolin, on the Leeds bench, cost £4.5 million. There was the £5 programme, which gave 16 Leeds pen portraits but omitted Gray, their best player, and Ford. There was thundering music and fireworks and then Virginia Bottomley wrapped in an NHS blanket. And finally, when all razzmatazz was spent, there was a run-of-the-mill match. Just how surreal it was became apparent after 20

minutes when Milosevic scored. It was no more than his team-mate Taylor had forecast after a handful of misses against Ipswich in the FA Cup that is truly part of the heritage. Joking afterwards he had said: "I bet Savo scores the most important goal of the season." Many a true word... It was the beginning of the end for Howard Wilkinson, who was almost speechless afterwards. "It's always an emotional day

coming here," he said, adding: "I would imagine." Brian Little insists there is always a smile in his changing room. None presents it more on the field than Yorke, who could teach his friend Brian Lara a lesson. Townsend was named Man of the Match, his reward the Alan Hardaker Trophy. Ah yes, he was the *raison d'être*, when the League was at loggerheads with the FA.

Athletes chase £10m prize money in world events

Stephen Brierley in Cape Town

FOR the first time in the sport's history the International Amateur Athletic Federation will pay prize money at its major meetings, beginning with the world indoor championships in Paris next March.

"We must follow life in a realistic manner," said the IAAF president Primo Nebiolo after yesterday's announcement, which followed a long council meeting here.

The IAAF has been under increasing pressure from its athletes to pay prize money at the world championships.

Now there will be money for the first eight in each event at both the outdoor and indoor world championships and the World Cup. There will also be bonuses for world records.

The world outdoor championships will attract the highest prizes, with the winners expected to receive more than £80,000. Women will have parity with men. The likely cost for the three championships is more than £10 million.

The IAAF has changed the programme for the Atlanta Olympics this summer to allow Michael Johnson (200 and 400 metres) and Carl Lewis (100m and long jump) to double up.

Guardian Crossword No 20,609

Set by Crispa

Across

- Turning up soft rendering to loud is repellent (4,3)
- Prison sentence causing strain (7)
- Take over from a steward about fifteen (7)
- Thomas returned a highball — a chancy business (7)
- 16 responsible for government policy? (9)
- Such fibre is put first by the French (5)
- Continental university that's superior (5)
- Guidelines for stalls on either side of a road (9)
- Stuff obtainable from tubes and cans (9)
- Equestrian appendage (5)
- Disapproved of — making a comeback just the same (3,2)
- Cheats drew in pounds maybe in an ocean-going vessel (9)

Down

- A solitary child before getting ahead (7)
- A reformer's last word with the German (7)...
- ... administrator of a German organisation (7)
- Unusual way to travel about (7)
- Reading a friend will hold up for certain (7)
- In youth this may well be hampering (7)
- Nane over tea view, and that's a bloomer (2-3)
- A member of a secret society must use forenames (8)
- Lovely material as demonstrated (5)
- Prompter to encompass a balance (9)
- 75% of a swine's support (7)
- The woman's occupied by corroded radiators (7)

Guardian Crossword No 20,609

Set by Crispa

Across

- Enlarging no longer on service (9)
- People taking in cameras for repair (8)
- A light shaft, naturally (7)
- Part with one bird only to get another (7)
- Clothing shortened, study in the city (7)
- Cut, but not totally disheartened by it (5)
- Having a large number to bring up can be so depressing (5)

Solution tomorrow

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